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Plane crash

MOSCOW, (Reuter): An unspecified number of people were killed when a passenger plane crashed as it was coming into land in the West Siberian city of Surgut, Tass news agency reported.

Three-day siege

GAUHATI, (Reuter): Militant students, demanding eviction from Assam of illegal immigrants, started a three-day siege of oil installations in the north-eastern Indian state yesterday to block the pumping of crude oil to refineries, police said.

Evacuation

ABIDJAN, (Reuter): Fire forced evacuation of the international terminal building at Abidjan airport yesterday but no one was injured and flight schedules were not affected, officials said.

Delvalle in hiding

PANAMA CITY, (Reuter): Deposed President Eric Arturo Delvalle eluded military guards and went into hiding as military leader General Manuel Antonio Noriega tried to persuade him to go into exile, relatives said yesterday. (See Page 2)

Blast in Pakistan bazaar kills five

ISLAMABAD, Feb 27, (Reuter): A bomb killed five people and wounded 11 in a bazaar in north-western Pakistan today, state-run Pakistan television said.

The bomb exploded at Thal in the Kohat district of North West Frontier Province, the report said. Two of the injured were in a critical condition.

There was no immediate indication of who was responsible for the bombing, the third in the province this month and the latest in a series of attacks which have killed more than 200 people since the beginning of 1987.

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Arabic text in the box:

- صدقياء نے راجح گئی
- کاروں سے سڑ کر دیا
- پاکستان کی سایی جائزی
- کنڈاکٹس کی دعوت
- دوسرے قاطینوں کو باندھا
- کردیاں
- شہزادوں کے بندھا کر
- کچھ شام کی کچھ
- ترکی کا لیک طیار ہے
- ایرانی رفاقتیوں پر عراق
- کمزورست ہے
- مراحلات ○ پوشفات

WEATHER

TEMPERATURE will be around normal with light variable wind and a chance for scattered clouds.
State of sea: slight
High water: 7.30 am, 11.00 pm
Low water: 2.30 am, 4.00 pm
Sunrise: 6.16 am
Sunset: 5.46 pm
Maximum temperature recorded: Kuwait: 23°C 72°F
Ahmadi: 20°C 68°F
Falaka: 19°C 66°F
Maximum temperature expected: Kuwait: 23°C 73°F
Ahmadi: 20°C 68°F
Falaka: 19°C 66°F
Minimum temperature recorded: Kuwait: 7°C 45°F
Ahmadi: 11°C 52°F
Falaka: 11°C 52°F
Kuwait: 9 per cent
Ahmadi: 48 per cent
Falaka: 55 per cent
Maximum humidity expected: Kuwait: 40 per cent
Ahmadi: 40 per cent
Falaka: 60 per cent

ARAB TIMES



SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 28, 1988

RAJAB 11, 1408 AH

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Fighting flares up

Two more shot dead in occupied territories

HALHOUL, West Bank, Feb 27, (Reuter): Two more Palestinians were shot dead today and dozens wounded in renewed fighting with troops on the Israeli-occupied West Bank, eyewitnesses and hospital officials said.

The deaths, following those of four Palestinians yesterday brought to 74 the unofficial death toll since unrest in the occupied areas began on Dec 9.

Heavy fighting erupted around Hebron's Alia Hospital as wounded from riots in Halhoul were being treated.

Baker Abdullah Al Baw, 22, was rushed to the hospital after a bullet pierced his heart during riots at Halhoul in the West Bank, witnesses said.

Doctors battled in a vain attempt to save his life as a battle raged around the hospital between soldiers firing live ammunition and tear gas and dozens of stone-throwing Palestinians. Relatives snatched the body and disappeared with it outside.

In Jerusalem's Mokassed Hospital, Nihad Al Ghaffar, 21, died after being shot during clashes at Arub refugee camp, hospital officials said.

A military spokesman confirmed the death but could not give the cause. He said he had no information about the dead man in Halhoul.

Wounded demonstrators, including a youth with a bloody stump where a finger had been, staggered into Alia Hospital as troops besieged the building for at least two hours.

The clash in Halhoul began when stone-throwing Arabs brandishing the Palestinian flag were confronted by soldiers who fired an unidentified red gas, according to witnesses.

Officials said there was a real threat that a specially re-convened session of the General Assembly next week might agree to move the 43rd General Assembly, opening on Sept 13, to Geneva or Vienna.

The UN has subsidiary headquarters in both places.

UN financial experts were directed to cost a possible switch and report urgently to Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar so that he could put the data, before the Assembly, officials said.

The United Nations is in grave financial difficulties because of the failure of the United States and other members to pay their assessed dues. Perez de Cuellar.



An Israeli soldier hits a Palestinian girl at the back of her head near occupied Jerusalem. (Reuter wirephoto)

US insistence to shut PLO office in UN

General Assembly may be moved

UNITED NATIONS, Feb 27, (Reuter): The UN General Assembly may leave New York next September if the United States insists on shutting the PLO mission here, officials said yesterday.

The United Nations invited the PLO to take part in UN meetings without the right to vote and the threat to close its mission has put the United States on a collision course with the world body.

Possible

Officials said there was a real threat that a specially re-convened session of the General Assembly next week might agree to move the 43rd General Assembly, opening on Sept 13, to Geneva or Vienna.

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The United Nations is in grave financial difficulties because of the failure of the United States and other members to pay their assessed dues. Perez de Cuellar.

Fighters killed

SIDON, Lebanon, Feb 27, (Reuter): A Muslim militia said five of its fighters were killed in a four-pronged attack today against positions of the Israeli-backed South Lebanon Army (SLA) militia east of the southern town of Sidon.

21 die as cliff collapses

FEZ, Morocco, Feb 27, (AP): A cliff, weakened by days of rain, collapsed early today onto a shanty settlement, killing at least 21 people and injuring six, authorities said.

Rescue workers continued to dig through the ruins of the settlement in search of other victims who might be trapped in the debris.

Those left homeless by the disaster and numerous families whose homes were threatened were evacuated and given temporary refuge at a centre in the suburbs of Fez, which is 200 kilometres (125 miles) east of Rabat, the Moroccan capital, according to local officials.

Willing

The PLO, which has called for Palestinians to boycott a regional tour by Shultz, repeated today it was willing to meet US officials.

It said in statements issued in Amman and Kuwait that such a meeting should take place under the auspices of the PLO.

The PLO reiterated its readiness to meet with the American administration on any level in any foreign or Arab capital with a delegation of responsible Palestinians from inside or outside our occupied nation," it said.

Shultz invited 15 Palestinians from the occupied territories to a meeting in Jerusalem yesterday, but none accepted the invitation.

Israel urged to accept peace conference

Western navies in the Gulf to stay: Mellor

By Keith Wells and Jadranka Porter

THE British Minister of State for Foreign Affairs, David Mellor said in Kuwait yesterday that Israel must agree to join an international peace conference if progress toward peace in the Middle East is to be made.

He also said that Western Navies protecting shipping in the Gulf had no intention to withdraw their fleets.

"Western Navies are here in the Gulf to stay for a long and indefinite period," he said.

Mellor addressing a press conference at the Kuwait airport on his way to Bahrain from Baghdad, also called on the PLO to renounce violence and accept UN Security Council resolution 242 and 338, which recognise Israel's right to secure boundaries.

Existence

"As soon as the PLO renounces violence and accepts Israel's right to existence it could engage in direct talks with Washington. The failure to take this step only damages the PLO itself," he added.

"The PLO must think about how it can become accepted by the leading Western countries."

However, Mellor was at pains to point out that the primary responsibility to offer the hand of peace at this time and a basis for a peace conference lies with Israel.

He said Israeli authorities must ensure that their troops comply with the Geneva Convention.

Seventy-four Palestinians have been killed and hundreds injured by Israeli gunfire and beatings since a violent uprising began in the occupied Arab areas on last Dec 9.

Mellor described US Secretary of State George Shultz' visit to the MidEast as a genuine and important peace initiative for which he felt Britain could justifiably claim much of the credit.

"The Israelis must understand



Mellor that the status quo in the occupied territories is no longer an option," said Mellor.

"If Shultz' proposals are rejected out of hand it will cause grave damage to Israel's international reputation."

Brutality

"Self determination for the Palestinian territories has been a key element of British policy since the Venice Declaration of 1980," Mellor pointed out that he had received no criticism whatsoever from any Arab Foreign Minister with regard to Britain's position.

Speaking on the presence of Western fleets he said although the British naval force in the Gulf had been reduced by one minesweeper, this was purely a matter of day to day fleet management and meant no reduction in commitment.

He also said: "The Arab world should not miss the present opportunity of resolving the Middle East crisis."

Mellor referred to his own recent visit to the West Bank and Gaza and said that his outspoken condemnation of Israeli brutality showed that he shared the Arab world's concern for the position of the Palestinian people there.

(Continued on Page 4)

US imported Iranian oil despite ban

WASHINGTON, Feb 27, (AP): The United States imported 6.4 million barrels of crude oil from Iran in the two months after President Reagan banned trade with that country, according to statistics released yesterday by a group affiliated with consumer advocate Ralph Nader.

Government officials said they believed that oil might have been exempt from the ban because it might have been contracted for before the President's action.

The Iranian shipments amounted to 7.3 per cent of US crude imports in November and December, after the President's ban. For all of 1987, Iran provided 5.1 percent of US crude imports.

The ban on trade with Iran took effect on Oct 29.

Jason Adkins, director of Buyers Up, a consumer oil-buying cooperative founded by Nader, said officials at the foreign assets control division of the US Customs Service "were completely unaware of the November and December shipments of Iranian oil to this country until we brought it to their attention."

"When the enforcement people haven't a clue ... it's a failed policy," he said. Asked whether the ban should be dropped, Adkins said: "I'm not making a judgment on that, but it's not working."

Zia refuses to visit India for Afghan talks

ISLAMABAD, Feb 27, (Reuter): Pakistani President Mohammad Zia-ul-Haq today declined an invitation from Indian Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi to visit New Delhi to discuss Afghan peace efforts, the Foreign Ministry said.

A ministry statement said Zia had instead suggested Rajiv should visit Islamabad for talks with him and Prime Minister Mohammad Khan Junejo.

The Foreign Ministry said Zia sent a message to Rajiv today and also spoke by telephone.

Zia expressed his gratitude for Rajiv's invitation but "regretted that he was unable to visit New Delhi at this time owing to preoccupations at home," a ministry statement said.

Moves

Junejo has invited leading politicians for talks in last-minute moves to evolve a national consensus on any UN-negotiated peace settlement in neighbouring Afghanistan.

Government officials said today Junejo had invited the heads of major political parties to a meeting on March 5.

Opposition politicians, who do not recognise the legitimacy of Junejo's three-year-old administration, said they were discussing their response.

Junejo sent the invitations as a Pakistani delegation prepares to leave for Geneva to resume UN-sponsored talks with the Soviet-backed Afghan government on March 2.

James Bond

LONDON, Feb 27, (Reuter): Secret agent James Bond is packing his licence to kill and moving to Mexico City to save money, the Star newspaper said today.

Deaths reported in Armenian clashes

MOSCOW, Feb 27, (Reuter): Thousands of Armenians in a disputed mountain region defied Moscow today and pursued protests demanding its return to Soviet Armenia, according to officials in the local capital.

INTERNATIONAL

Operations against Tamils scaled down

COLOMBO, Feb 27, (Reuters): Indian troops have scaled down operations against Sri Lanka's Tamil separatist guerrillas to enable unofficial peace talks to continue, an Indian diplomat said today.

High Commissioner Jyotiindra Nath Dixit said unofficial discussions began after Liberation Tigers of Tamil Elam (LTTE) rebels contacted Sri Lankan and Indian authorities in Colombo and in Madras, south India.

"Over the last week or 10 days there have been no pitched battles. We are not seeking out the LTTE. We are conducting only minimal operations," Dixit told a news conference.

"We have deliberately scaled down the operations in the hope that they would come out with proposals to restore peace in Sri Lanka," he said.

Proposals

Since last October, an Indian peace-keeping force of 50,000 soldiers have been hunting down the Tigers, who reject a peace accord signed by Sri Lankan President Junius Jayewardene and Indian Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi last July.

Dixit said some proposals,

which he described as extraordinary, had been made at discussions between representatives of the Tigers and Sri Lankan officials, whom he did not identify.

He said he had referred these proposals to Jayewardene, but the Sri Lankan leader had rejected anything outside the framework of the accord.

"No unilateral agreement outside the peace pact can be suddenly enforced," Dixit said.

One of the proposals being "bandied about" was for the Tigers to be given control of the northern Jaffna peninsula while dropping any claims over the ethnically mixed eastern province, he said.

Wished

Under the accord, the North and East were to be brought under one semi-autonomous provincial council. A referendum was to be held within a year to enable the Tamils, Sinhalese and Muslims in the East to decide if they wished to continue the link with the North.

Tamils, who form 13 per cent of Sri Lanka's 16 million people, have been claiming the North and East as their homeland.

India expels diplomats involved in smuggling

NEW DELHI, Feb 27, (Kuna): Three diplomats, representing Nigeria, Tanzania and Afghanistan, have been asked to leave India, after Indian customs authorities busted a smuggling racket.

The diplomats were involved in the racket with an Indian named Ashok Gupta.

Ashok Gupta used to act as an authorised agent for several diplomats, who wanted to import household items.

Diplomats are entitled to bring anything free of customs duty. They have diplomatic immunity and goods imported by them are not checked.

Gupta misused both the two privileges and used to import items other than those sought by

Dole gathers support in South

WASHINGTON, Feb 27, (Reuters): Senate minority leader Robert Dole is picking up valuable endorsements from top Republicans from the southern states in his race against Vice President George Bush for their party's presidential nomination.

But Dole's aides still say he faces an uphill fight against Bush in southern primaries on "Super Tuesday," March 8.

"I think Dole is the most able and capable candidate of either party," former Texas Governor John Connally said at a Houston, Texas, news conference yesterday.

Mississippi Senator Thad Cochran also endorsed Dole yesterday. South Carolina Senator Strom Thurmond gave the Kansas lawmaker a public pat on the back earlier in the week.

The support of Thurmond, the senior Republican in the Senate and a power in South Carolina for over 40 years, was a big boost ahead of that state's key primary on March 5.

"Thurmond's endorsement put us in the ballpark," senior Dole strategist Bill Lacy told Reuters.

But he noted that opinion polls show Bush with a big lead in South Carolina and the 12 southern states that vote in the "Super Tuesday" primaries.

Individual states over a period of months are picking the delegates who will go to the Democratic and Republican parties' national nominating conventions this summer.

Seoul releases 2,134 prisoners

SEOUL, Feb 27, (Reuters): South Korea freed 2,134 prisoners, including 125 political detainees, today under a clemency order by President Roh Tae-Woo.

A Justice Ministry spokesman said the order was to promote national reconciliation and resolve conflicts and disorders. He said another 1,500 former political prisoners would have their voting rights restored.

Opposition and church

All 15 crew dead as Boeing crashes in north Cyprus

NICOSIA, Feb 27, (Reuters): A Boeing 727 owned by a private Turkish-based firm crashed into a mist-shrouded mountain in northern Cyprus today, killing all 15 people on board, police said.

Witnesses said bodies, some charred beyond recognition, were scattered along with wreckage of the Talya airlines plane over wide area in the Kyrenia range.

"We heard the noise of an aircraft. Its drone was followed by a big bang," 15-year-old Cemal Sakalliar from the nearby village of Arapkooy told Reuters yesterday.

The plane, which was carrying crew but no passengers on the flight from Istanbul, crashed minutes before it was due to land at Ercan airport in the breakaway Turkish Republic of North Cyprus.

Investigating

It was due to take a group of tourists to the Finnish capital of Helsinki on Sunday.

Officials were investigating the cause of the crash, the first in the breakaway republic since it was proclaimed unilaterally in 1983. Only Turkey recognises the republic.

Smoke was still rising from the crash site two hours after the plane ploughed into trees at 10:25 am (0825 GMT) near an ancient crusader castle on the 950-metre

(2,850-foot) peak of Bufavento. Talya officials in Istanbul said the crew included Turks and other nationalities. They gave no details.

Turkey's semi-official Anatolian news agency said the crew included up to six Yugoslavs and two British stewardesses.

Air traffic control officials at Ercan, 15 miles (25 km) east of Nicosia, told Reuters they were in contact with the Boeing seconds before the crash.

They said the pilot, asked if he could see the airport, responded negatively. Nothing more was heard from him.

"The plane ought to have been at 6,000 feet (2,000 metres) but apparently it must have been at 3,000 feet (1,000 metres)," one official said.

"We will not know the cause of the crash until the black box (flight recorder) is found," he added.

The Kyrenia range is in the far north of Cyprus, about 15 miles (25 km) from the divided capital of Nicosia.

Talya officials said the jet was their only aircraft but they had signed contracts with Boeing to lease a further six 727s.

A private firm with Turkish and European interests, Talya runs charter flights between Turkey, northern Cyprus, West Germany and Finland.



Panamanian strongman Gen. Manuel Antonio Noriega (left) holds up the arm of the new President Manuel Solis Palma during a rally at the presidential palace. (Reuters wirephoto)

I am still the President: Delvalle

Noriega keeps grip on Panama

PANAMA CITY, Feb 27, (Reuters): Panama's military strongman Manuel Antonio Noriega kept his grip on power yesterday while the man who tried to fire him, and wound up being fired instead, insisted that he was still President.

About 3,000 supporters rallied outside the military headquarters here in support of General Noriega.

But the thousands of Panamanians who took to the streets last summer to clamour for his ouster failed to turn out in support of Eric Arturo Delvalle, fired as President by the National Assembly after attempting to get rid of Noriega.

Shops, banks and businesses were open as usual and security forces kept a low profile.

Confusion

However, the Panama Industrial Union, the main business leaders' group, issued a statement supporting Delvalle and calling for a general strike.

Confusion reigned over who was nominally heading the country after the assembly, dominated by the pro-military Democratic Revolution Party, swore in Education Minister Manuel Solis Palma as new President.

"I am most certainly President and I will place a demand before the Supreme Court because the assembly action was illegal. It was a sham," Delvalle said yesterday.

Support for Delvalle also came from Venezuela, Argentina, and El Salvador while leftist Nicaragua and Cuba urged Noriega to keep fighting what they saw as US meddling.

Meddling

President Reagan, who earlier this week labelled Noriega a "military dictator," said yesterday he still recognised Delvalle as President but ruled out force to back him.

Support for Delvalle also came from Venezuela, Argentina, and El Salvador while leftist Nicaragua and Cuba urged Noriega to keep fighting what they saw as US meddling.

22 held in Manila for sex with children

NEW DELHI, Feb 27, (AP): Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi joined more than 120,000 Indians in a run today to mark 40 years of India's independence.

A human wall of security guards surrounded Rajiv, who ran for about a kilometre (0.62 mile) before being whisked away in his bullet-proof Mercedes.

Rajiv faces death threats from Sikh extremists who have waged a campaign for an independent nation in northern Punjab state.

The United States, which has 10,000 troops based at its Latin American headquarters here, has led international calls for Noriega to step down.

The Soviet Union and China to set up missions for people who were "left alone," the Press Trust of India said today.

The 77-year-old nun told reporters in the east Indian coastal city of Visakhapatnam that she would visit the two countries with nuns from her Missionaries of Charity. She did not say which cities she had in mind or how long she planned to stay.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Seven killed

AMRITSAR, India, Feb 27, (Reuters): A feud that erupted after an Indian villager accused a neighbour of abducting his wife ended in tragedy when hired assassins shot dead seven people in a north Indian village, police said today.

Police said Mohinder Singh hired four or five gunmen who forced their way into a house in Talwandi Chanchak village, southwest of the Sikh holy city of Amritsar on Friday night and murdered the occupants.

Tiara Singh, his wife, two sons, two teenage daughters and a family guest died in the attack.

Mary Dunhill dies

LONDON, Feb 27, (AP): Mary Dunhill, the last surviving child of Alfred Dunhill, founder of the tobacco and pipe-making company, has died at the age of 81. Death Notices said today.

Miss Dunhill, the only daughter among Dunhill's four children, joined the board of Dunhill Holdings in 1944, explaining "they were rather short of men" and in 1961 became chairman, succeeding her eldest brother, Alfred.

The cause of Miss Dunhill's death on Wednesday was not revealed.

13 die in mine blast

LEGASPI, Philippines, Feb 27, (Reuters): Thirteen men of Philippines' elite Scout Ranger Army unit were killed today when their truck hit a mine, the military said.

A military report said among the dead was the son of Brigadier-General Felix Browner, military chief of northern Luzon, the Philippines' main island.

Browner's son, a lieutenant, was not named in the report which said the mine was planted by communist rebels.

Mother Theresa

NEW DELHI, Feb 27, (Reuters): Nobel peace prize winner Mother Theresa will visit the Soviet Union and China to set up missions for people who were "left alone," the Press Trust of India said today.

The 77-year-old nun told reporters in the east Indian coastal city of Visakhapatnam that she would visit the two countries with nuns from her Missionaries of Charity. She did not say which cities she had in mind or how long she planned to stay.

Art auction

LONDON, Feb 27, (UPI): Sotheby's, the art auctioneering company, said today it would hold the first international art auction ever to take place in the Soviet Union this July.

Lord Gowrie, Sotheby's chairman, called it "an historic event." Sergei Popov, of the Soviet Ministry of Culture, said "we hope this will start a whole series of sales."

Explosion

JOHANNESBURG, Feb 27, (Reuters): An explosion tore through an underground parking lot at Johannesburg's Van Smuts Airport today, police said.

There were no immediate reports of injuries and police said the blast caused only minimal damage to parked cars.

Dhaka officials asked to boycott polls

DHAKA, Feb 27, (UPI): Two opposition leaders have urged civil servants and security officials to boycott the general elections that the government of President Hossain Mohammad Ershad has scheduled for March 3.

Bangladesh Nationalist Party's leader Begum Khaleda Zia and president of the Awami League, Sheikh Hasina Wajed—the two women spearheading the opposition against Ershad—issued a joint statement yesterday asking the Army, the security apparatus and police who are to be deployed for the polls to boycott the elections.

The statement was the first ever jointly issued by the two leaders.

Chief Election Commissioner Justice ATM Masud said yesterday that "all steps have been taken to ensure free and fair polls."

Strike

Thousands of Bangladeshi doctors, lawyers and other professionals staged a one-day strike today to demand the resignation of Ershad and show support for the opposition-led boycott of Thursday's parliamentary elections, organizers said.

Doctors maintained emergency services only, courts were closed and nearly 1,500 journalists walked out for three hours.

A Bangladesh Medical Association official said the stoppage was held to boost demands for "higher wages, job security and the change of government."

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French educationist lauds Kuwait's development

A FRENCH educationist has strongly lauded and appreciated Kuwait's development achieved in all fields and described Kuwait as one of the most advanced and modern countries of the world.

Jean Lascombe, president of the Bordeaux-I University in France told Kuna that Kuwait has old traditions and civilisation. He described his first ever visit here as very interesting.

The educationist said he is visiting Kuwait at the invitation of Sheikh Nasser Mohammed Al Ahmed Al Sabah, Minister of Social Affairs and Labour.

Accord

He said he was much impressed by the very high technological activities with which Kuwait is equipped in all walks of life.

Besides attending Kuwait's National Day celebrations, Lascombe visited many places of historical importance. He commended the enthusiasm of the

Kuwaiti people with which they celebrated their National Day.

The French guest also visited Kuwait University and held meetings with the rector Dr Abdul Razzak. He praised the standard of Education in Kuwait University as very good and indicated an accord on cooperation between the two universities in the field of science and economy may be signed soon.

Impressed

He also visited Kuwait Institute for Scientific Research and was greatly impressed by its research work in the field of technology. This institute is equipped with ultra-modern scientific instruments. Lascombe said, and noted that good chances exist for cooperation between Kisr and his university.

He said that European and Arab countries maintain very good relations and added endeavours should be made to further develop these relations,



Jean Lascombe

in the field of technology and the humanities.

Jean Lascombe advised the Kuwaiti students intending to pursue higher studies in France to have sufficient knowledge of the French language.

Focus on secondary education

RASHEED Al Hamad, the Assistant Undersecretary of Kuwait's Ministry of Education for Planning and Development, said that one of the most important recommendations made at the recent conference in Geneva was in regard to the philosophy and aims of secondary school education.

The emphasis was placed on the secondary education stage being the point at which students decide on higher education or work, he said, adding that the ministry had conducted many studies in this area.

He added that studies focus on the possibility of diversifying secondary education to qualify students in vocational skills rather than just the pursuit of higher studies.

Al Hamad said that the curriculum must meet the needs of society, but added that the ministry had no plans to establish special secondary schools for agriculture, economics or military studies at present.

Shaheen arrives in Malaysia

KUALA LUMPUR, Feb 27. (Kuna) Kuwait's Foreign Ministry Undersecretary Sulaiman Majed Al Shaheen arrived here this evening for a four-day official visit to Malaysia.

During his stay here Shaheen will deliver a message of "goodwill and friendship" from the Kuwait Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister, Sheikh Sabah Al Ahmed, to the Malaysian Foreign Minister, Abu Hassan Omar.

He told Kuna on arrival at the international airport in Subang, that he hoped to meet with his counterpart Razzaq Ismail and other Malaysian Foreign Ministry officials to discuss matters of bilateral interest.

"During my stay here I will also take the opportunity to officially open the new Kuwait embassy complex on March 1," he said.

Opening

He added this was his first visit to Malaysia and the first leg of his tour to South Asian countries.

Shaheen was received on arrival by the Kuwaiti Ambassador.

Expatriate Student Day

ALI Al Feely, the Director of the Expatriate Student Affairs Department at Kuwait University announced that the department would hold a special programme on March 23 to celebrate the Expatriate Student Day.

Al Feely said the day would be celebrated with an exhibition of national costumes and foods, contributed by participating students, and folklore activities.

A football game is also planned, he said, between an expatriate student team and the university team as well as an educational competition.

He encouraged students to participate in the forthcoming event by registering their names with the Expatriate Student Affairs Department.

Theft most common crime in Hawally

COLONEL Abdul Aziz Al Shamlan, the Chief of Security at Kuwait's Hawally Governorate, said the most common crime in the Hawally area was theft. He added that this was encouraged by the carelessness of citizens and residents who leave their car and house doors unlocked.

Assign

He said the main aim of the security authorities was to minimise the frequency of theft and other criminal acts. He explained that the number of police stations in any area was determined by the population density and the social requirements of that particular area.

He said that the governorate would assign special police and

plain-clothesmen to arrest men who loitered around girls' schools and used the same policy for any sign of harassment in shopping areas or other places where people gather.

Colonel Al Shamlan emphasised that the security situation in Kuwait was stable and that adequate police patrols were allocated for each area in the country.

He said that complaints about policemen were always carefully investigated before any legal action was taken.

Colonel Al Shamlan appealed to citizens to avoid public installations while camping and encouraged young drivers to drive carefully.

Video shops making profits despite slump in market

VIDEO shops in Kuwait are making a good profit although there is a slump in other markets, according to a local newspaper.

It said that some customers described the video trade as an expensive one compared to other businesses, while others said that video shops were renting banned tapes at exorbitant prices.

The newspaper therefore interviewed customers and video shop owners.

One customer, Hussain Hasani, said that prices at video shops were very expensive because of the great demand, and called for strict control.

Abdullah Al Falah agreed with this view, complaining that the price for Kuwaiti plays was very high. He said the authorities should fix the price of video tapes, adding that a tape should not cost more than KD5. He said the annual subscription system was better for customers.

Cheating

Fareed Zarreef said that video tape prices must be reduced because they were unbearable, and people such as himself could not purchase more than one film.

He said that some video shops were selling prohibited tapes to some customers secretly, and called on the Information Ministry to punish such dealers.

Siham Munir said an annual

subscription was better than a monthly one. She said tape prices were increasing continuously although tapes were produced locally.

Almed Al Saleh said annual or monthly subscription rates differed from one shop to another. He said some shops were cheating customers by selling re-recorded tapes at the same price as original ones. He called on the Information Ministry as well as the Commerce and Industry Ministry to impose strict control on prices.

Khaled Abdullah said some video shops were selling sex films to youths at very high prices. He said the owners should be punished because they were spreading corruption.

Bashir Shaker said that shops were selling tapes at unreasonable prices and called on the authorities to put an end to such practices.

Adventure

Mohammed Sultan said that the monthly subscription was an unworkable one, because subscribers would be reluctant to see more than one film daily.

Osma Qashlan said the video tape was an important one for making profit. He said some video shops were making huge

profits, especially when selling Kuwaiti plays. He said most youths preferred adventure films, but he preferred social ones.

A seller of video tapes, Mohammed Abu Ismail, told the newspaper that the price of a tape depended on the quality of the recorded material which was subject to many factors. He said most of his customers were girls and youths. He said girls preferred romantic films, youths preferred adventure films and older people preferred wrestling.

He said the business was more active during holidays.

Faisal Abdullah said that good films are saleable, particularly Arabic films. He said Kuwaiti plays were very expensive because of the great demand.

Successful

Abbas Mohammed said it was undeniable that some video shops were selling tapes at very high prices. He added that most shops were trying to make big profits. He said that the price of local plays were very high, ranging between KD15 and KD10.

Sulaiman Ahmed said youths preferred adventure and exciting films while girls preferred romantic ones. He said the price of tapes differed from one shop to another.

KUWAIT PRESS DIGEST

Solid internal front emphasised

AKUWATI daily said HH the Crown Prince and Premier's address on the occasion of the country's 27th National Day has reflected the leadership's belief in the role of those who sacrifice for the sake of Kuwait.

The paper noted that the address further exposed those who try to fish in troubled waters and incite strife in the society.

The masses will dispose of those who attempt to disrupt the strong links between various sectors of the society and their leadership, the paper warned.

It emphasised, however, that Kuwait's solid internal front and the people's support of their leader, HH the Amir, and to various levels of the leadership will enable Kuwait to confront any wrong deeds.

The daily called for studying the Crown Prince's address by various state bodies and to make use of it practically.

GULF PRESS

US stand criticised

UAE newspapers commented editorially on the current mission of United States Secretary of State George Shultz to the Middle East and the American stand towards the 11-week old violent uprising in the occupied Arab territories.

The papers criticised the Arab stance regarding the popular uprising, saying that the "weakness" of this stand led the United States to pursue an Israeli biased policy in the Middle East.

Abu Dhabi-based Al Ittihad newspaper, commenting on the subject editorially, pointed out that Shultz's Thursday night statement in occupied Palestine appears at first as if he is presenting something new ... but in reality it does not reflect anything specifically and does not forward a tangible proposal or plan.

"When Shultz calls for the importance of Palestinian participation in any Middle East peace process, he is ignoring the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO)—the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people," the paper said.

The paper added that when Shultz was talking about the Palestinian contribution in determining their future or achieving their legitimate rights, he was referring to old formulas killed by time — what is demanded today is not to determine the Palestinian future or their inalienable rights, these two expressions are meaningless, but it is "the right of the Palestinian people for self-determination," it added.

The paper affirmed that the current situation in occupied Palestine did not need words saying that it needed decisive action that should spend the brutal Israeli actions against the Palestinian people in occupied territories.

Commenting on Shultz's statement in which he said he had a peace plan with viable success, the paper questioned whether Shultz knows that the success of his plan was linked to the US recognition of the right of the Palestinian people for self-determination and statehood.

Dubai-based Al Bayan newspaper, lashed out at the US administration's policy in the Middle East and called on it to pursue an even-handed policy towards the Arab-Israel conflict.

"Achieving Arab cohesion and unifying their ranks is the only means to change American policy in the Middle East," the paper stressed.

SHAM-E-GHAZAL WITH JAGJIT & CHITRA SINGH



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HILTON HOTEL, ON FRIDAY, 4TH MARCH '88
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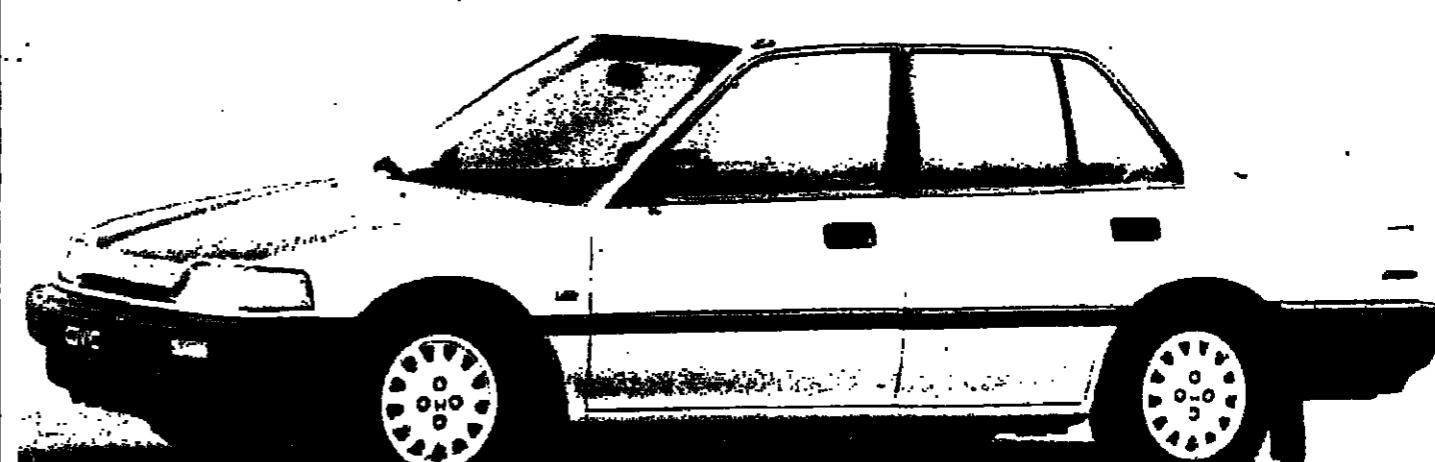


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Bishara optimistic Gulf war will end soon

WASHINGTON, Feb 27, (Kuna): The Secretary-General of the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) Abdullah Bishara said the Gulf states are determined not to allow international focus on the Iran-Iraq war to slip because otherwise the war will go on indefinitely.

Bishara, winding up five-days of high-level talks with Reagan administration officials and Congressmen, said he was greatly encouraged by the interest and determination he found here aimed at ending the war.

Bishara, speaking to a few Arab newsmen at the end of his talks, said he was still optimistic that the Iran-Iraq war will taper off by the end of 1988.

"No doubt there is international pressure and interest in ending the war. They all now realise that the tension and threats posed by the war cannot be allowed to continue," he emphasised.

The secretary-general, who will meet on Monday with the Secretary General of the United Nations Javier Peres de Cuello, said part of this interest is due to



Abdullah Bishara
the persistent and relentless efforts of the GCC states over the last year.

Contacts

He also attributed this to the specific domestic front in the Gulf and the Arab consensus witnessed at the Arab summit conference in Amman late last year. He said the GCC states have also intensified their contacts with Iran in recent months in an attempt at lessening tension.

Agreement to limit dowries welcomed

HH the Crown Prince and Prime Minister Sheikh Saad Al Abdullah has welcomed the agreement of a number of Kuwaiti tribes to limit the amount of marriage dowries, describing the move as "a healthy step in the Kuwaiti society."

HH the Crown Prince, in a statement given to Seayessah newspaper said the dowry restrictions show the understanding of these tribes of the negative effects the high dowries have on Kuwaiti society.

Sheikh Saad expressed hope that other tribes and citizens would adopt a similar stand on discontinuing the high dowries, saying that this would strengthen the bonds of unity and love between the Kuwaiti people.

A number of representatives of tribes, that have not taken similar action, indicated yesterday that they will soon announce similar agreements.

AIDS committee to meet in Doha

THE Committee of the Arab Gulf Health Ministers Council to fight AIDS will meet in Doha, Qatar, today to discuss the latest information relating to the disease. The medical, social and economic aspects of the disease will be discussed as well as the law prepared by Kuwait intended to control the disease in the country.

The committee will review a number of reports on AIDS and a letter by the director of the Regional Bureau of the World Health Organisation concerning the publication of necessary information relating to cases which may appear in the Gulf states.

Social security funds to help employees

SOCIAL security funds at ministries have their own rules according to their purpose and number of employees, the undersecretary of the Social Affairs and Labour Ministry, Issa Yaseen, told a local newspaper.

Objectives

He said the funds did not have any government legal framework, but were run to help employees and were considered as a social security system.

The system aimed at spreading solidarity among ministry employees, and were not established

Tunisian minister in Cairo

CAIRO, Feb 27, (Kuna): Tunisian Information Minister Dr Abdel Wahab Abdulla arrived here today from Saudi Arabia on a four-day official visit, Radio Cairo said.

The Tunisian official said, in an arrival statement, he will hold talks with senior Egyptian officials over bilateral cooperation and issues of joint concern.

Abdulla said he will relay a message from Tunisian President Zaine Al Abidine Bin Ali to President Mubarak, and will sign an information protocol with the concerned authorities in addition to opening a bureau in Cairo for the Tunisian news agency.

He is scheduled to meet later today with Premier Dr Atef Sidki, Minister of Agriculture Dr Yousef Wali and will call on President Mubarak tomorrow. This is the first visit here by a Tunisian official since resumption of bilateral ties last month.

Qaboos receives Hassan's message

MUSCAT, Feb 27, (Kuna): Sultan Qaboos Bin Said received a written message from King Hassan II of Morocco, Oman news agency reported today.

The message was delivered by Morocco's Foreign Minister Dr Abdellatif Al Felali when he called on Sultan Qaboos at the royal camp in the Wilayah.

The Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Youssif Bin Alawi Bin Abdullah was present during the audience.

Interested in a U.K. degree in Engineering or Computing?

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An Open Evening is to be held at Kuwait English School on:

Wednesday, 2nd March, 1988 6.30 - 9.00 pm
For further details, visit Kuwait English School or telephone 5629356/5655218 or 5625640.



ANNOUNCEMENT

The Department of Civil Engineering of Kuwait University is pleased to invite engineers and researchers to a lecture titled:

"Effect of Bi-moment on the Analysis and Stability of Thin-walled Structural Members"

Speaker: Dr Hany A. El Ghazali
Assistant Professor
Civil Engineering Department
Kuwait University

Date: Monday, 29th February 1988
Time: 6:30 pm
Place: Kuwait University Faculty Club

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Please call 4813566 ext 255, only between
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Al Multa Trade Centre, beside Al Suwan company, Nugra, Ibn Khaldoun St., Tel. 2661100/2619052.

Kuwaiti relief aid for Lebanese distributed

BEIRUT, Feb 27, (Kuna): As Kuwaiti relief aid worth some \$10 million began to be distributed to the needy Lebanese today, a senior Kuwaiti official was quoted here as stressing that the aid shipments stemmed from humanitarian and not political considerations.

Bishara added, "I feel that these contacts, at the regional and international levels have helped in lessening the tension of the war."

Messages

One of the messages he carried to Washington, similar to those he will carry to other countries, including Britain on Tuesday, is that "Gulf stability cannot be complete unless the war comes to an end."

And the only way to do it, he emphasised, is through the implementation of Security Council resolution 598, "it is the right prescription," Bishara said.

The GCC secretary-general also affirmed the importance of maintaining the unity and unanimity of the members of the Security Council if progress is to be achieved. He said he was encouraged by the positions being adopted at the United Nations and elsewhere.

Unicef

A shipment of stationary is designed to meet the requirements of no less than 900,000 students though the Lebanese government initially sought assistance for 500,000 students only, he added.

Mubarak noted that food and medical supplies as well as childrenswear have already reached Lebanon via Syrian territories.

Distribution is being handled by the Unicef office and the humanitarian Hariri foundation of the Lebanese-born Saudi businessman Rafiq Al Hariri.

Another Kuwaiti official was quoted by the same magazine as saying none of Lebanon's warring militias will have anything to do with the Kuwaiti assistance.

Ensured

The militias have their own resources and will by no means be involved in distribution of aid as the task is being handled by the Unicef and the Hariri foundation, Kuwait's ambassador to Damascus Ahmed Alabdullah Al Jasim told Al Sharaa in an interview.

He stressed that Kuwait came up with the initiative after it ensured that the aid will go to the needy Lebanese.

The ambassador, responding to a question, said Kuwait was ready to mediate for a settlement of the Lebanese crisis if it were requested to do so. Kuwait, however, has thus far not been approached for the purpose,

according to the ambassador. The militaries have their own resources and will by no means be involved in distribution of aid as the task is being handled by the Unicef and the Hariri foundation, Kuwait's ambassador to Damascus Ahmed Alabdullah Al Jasim told Al Sharaa in an interview.

UK steps up bid to sell minesweepers to Saudis

BAHRAIN, Feb 27, (Reuter): Two Royal Navy minesweepers arrived at Saudi Arabia's Gulf port of Jubail today as part of British attempts to win a \$530-million contract for a fleet of the vessels.

Western diplomats said that if Britain won the deal in the face of intense foreign competition, it could open the door to business worth more than \$1.8 billion throughout the Gulf.

A British embassy spokesman in Riyadh said two of three Hunt-class minesweepers in the Gulf, the Bicester and Brecon, arrived in Jubail with the frigate HMS Boxer today.

During their three-day visit they will stage sea-going demonstrations for Saudi naval officials, he said. "We are interested in selling naval equipment to

the Saudi forces."

The Saudis are in the market for a fleet of eight ships to counter the threat of mines in the Gulf.

Mines, suspected to have been laid by Iran in its tanker war against Iraq, killed ten seamen and destroyed two small supply ships in the waterway last year.

Britain wants to sell new Sandown-class vessels, priced at \$4 million each, to be produced by Vosper Thornycroft. They are due to be ready by mid-1989.

But it faces strong competition from Italy's Intermare Yard, which is building its own Lerici-class minehunters, and a French-Dutch-Belgian consortium.

The Saudi contract will be a very big prize, with the possibility of selling two ships to each of the other Gulf states," one Western diplomat said.

Faculty for pharmacology

SANAYA, Feb 27, (Kuna): Kuwaiti Ambassador here said Kuwait's or any Arab country's achievements in the benefit of all Arabs and Kuwait's National Day is a day for the Arab nation.

In statements to local weekly newspaper "September 26" published here today, Al Mousa expressed appreciation for the fraternal stands of the Yemen Arab Republic towards all issues which Kuwait encounter.

Kuwait government and people are proud of Yemen's achievements under the Sept 26 Revolution and highly estimate the faithfulness of Yemeni citizens in enhancing their country's march of progress.

Charity bazaar

THE Asmaa Bint Abi Bakr Centre for Adult Education held a charity bazaar last week with proceeds given in support of the Palestinian uprising in the occupied territories.

The bazaar, the first of its kind to be held by the centre, was supervised by the Headmistress Mudhi Al Ameri.

OBITUARY

ANTONIO PIEDADE FERNANDES

(Ex-KAC employee)

Expired on 27th Feb, 1988

in Kuwait

Beloved husband of

Espiceira, father of

Succima, Claret & Lydia,

father-in-law of Agnelo

Rebelo.

Funeral on 1st March at 3.30

pm at Holy Family

Cathedral.

(Relatives & friends, please

accept this as the only

intimation)

Dame Violet: a name linked with Kuwait's modern history



Dame Violet Dickson

they were in Saudi Arabia the people found it difficult to pronounce this name. King Saad has suggested calling him "Saud", she added.

She said the old house where she stayed is reminiscent of the days spent with her husband, and was part and parcel of her life.

She remembered that she was once horse riding with her husband along the coast, and was impressed by the Kuwaitis who came to bid farewell to their sons who were going diving. She still remembered their joy when their sons came back from the voyage.

Campaign

She said she took part in the campaign against the locust swarms that invaded Kuwait in 1929-31, and she participated in the vaccination campaign against smallpox in 1932. She said she was fond of Arabic coffee and dates adding that she and her husband would have them when visiting bedouins.

She said she had discovered a unique type of flower in Kuwait and presented it to the National Museum.

Italian foreign minister arrives in Riyadh for talks

RIYADH, Feb 27, (Agencies): Visiting Italian Foreign Minister Giulio Andreotti met here today with Saudi Crown Prince and First Deputy Premier, Abdullah Bin Abdul Aziz.

No details are available on the issues discussed at the meeting, which was attended by Saudi Foreign Minister Prince Saud Al Faisal.

Andreotti arrived from Damascus today on the second leg of a Middle East tour to discuss regional problems, including the 7-year-old Iran-Iraq war.

Andreotti, who will spend two days in the kingdom, was welcomed by his Saudi counterpart, Prince Saud Al Faisal.

He said he would report back to other European leaders on his talks.

Interested

Andreotti also met with Syrian Vice-President Abdul Halim Khaddam.

The Italian minister said the members of the European community are vitally interested in a settlement to the Arab-Israeli conflict.

His talks in Syria indicated the

healthy situation between two friendly countries" he said, adding that Syria and Italy would work to further improve relations.

After two days of official talks with Syrian leaders Wednesday and Thursday Andreotti spent a day sightseeing at the ancient city of Palmyra, 200 miles northeast of Damascus.

Andreotti's tour followed talks in Rome between Italian officials and Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir.

It coincides with a tour of the region by US Secretary of State George F. Shultz in a fresh quest for a Middle East peace settlement.

Shultz indicated the

Western navies in the Gulf to stay: Mellor

(Continued from Page 1)

"The situation in the Gulf is calmer now," he said, "and I believe the presence of the Western Navies is a key element in this more promising situation."

Mellor had extensive talks with the Iraqi officials about the prospects of a UN arms embargo on Iran.

"The British government has taken a leading role in co-ordinating the work of the Security Council in this matter and we believe it is time to tighten the screws on Iran to ensure compliance with resolution 598. I am confident that an embargo will be arranged within the next few weeks," Mellor said.

EVENTS

WHAT'S ON

THEATRE

ACT presents "An Evening of Absurdity" from March 7 to 10 at 8 pm at the Mousetrap Theatre, New English School, featuring two absurdly comic one-act plays, *The Bald Sorano* by Eugene Ionesco and *The America Dream* by Edward Albee. A special discount will be given for all opening-night tickets. For reservations ring 5639204; 5620332; 5725071.

Kuwait Players

"Antidote," a fast moving revue of comedy sketches and songs will be presented by Kuwait Players from May 9. Auditions will be held at Messilah Beach Hotel on Feb 28 and March 1, 7.30 to 9.30 pm. For any queries contact Paul — Tel: 5611546.

Kuwait Little Theatre KLT will perform the Vicar of Wakefield, an amusing tale by Oliver Goldsmith, in March. Gala evening on March 14 at 7.30 pm. Repeal performances on March 15, 16 and 17 at 8.15 pm. For reservations ring 5983724.

SOCIAL

Swedish Ladies Get-together

The next coffee afternoon will be held on March 1, Tuesday, from 4 pm at the residence of Mrs Britt-Marie Bonnan.

Mina Bazaar

A Mina Bazaar will be held on March 4 at the EPI ground, Sulaiibkhata, to mark the Independence Day of Bangladesh. A cricket match between Bangladesh Reds and Bangladesh Greens will also be held. All are welcome.

General Meeting

ACT will hold their Annual General Meeting on Monday (Feb 29), 7.30 pm, at Mousetrap Theatre, NES. Sneak preview of current production "An Evening of Absurdity." Newcomers and everybody interested in ACT encouraged to attend AGM. For details phone 5620332; 5725071.

Ladies Tea Party

The International Ladies Tea Party will hold a fancy dress competition at their next meeting on March 2 at the Kuwait Plaza Hotel. A karate expert will demonstrate self-defence techniques. For participating contact 5317390; 5386297.

Flightriders If your child is BA flightrider member and has not received invitation to Flightrider Party on March 3 contact 2413868 or 2425496.

Kuwait Irish Society St Patrick's Day celebration on March 17 at the Holiday Inn Hotel. If interested contact 5621701; 5622701; 8 am to 2 pm or 5624175 after 2 pm.

Daniella

Daniella, a Danish group, invites all Danes to a coffee morning in Kuwait Towers from 9.30 am on March 6. For details contact Marianne 3948953 or Ingelise — 3903464.

Ghazal Singers

Well-known Indian ghazal singers Jagjit and Chitra Singh will give a concert on March 4, Friday, at the Kuwait Hilton. Tickets on sale at the hotel.

Photography Contest

Kapiku has extended the deadline for the Photography Contest. All entries must be submitted on or before March 31. Entrants must state the Kapiku ID number on all entries. The entries will be judged on April 7. Winning entries will be displayed at an exhibition hall (venue will be announced later). For further details contact 4877793.

Kuwait Welsh Society

Annual St David's Day dinner at Messilah Beach Hotel on Tuesday, March 1. Singer Doreen Lewis will provide entertainment. For tickets and further details phone 4874548; 3910875; 3912384.

SPORTS

Raft Race Raft Race 1988 entry forms and rules are now available from the Messilah Beach Hotel. First captain's meeting at MBH, Al Foz Suite, on March 1, 6.30 pm. For further details contact the hotel, ext. 712/751/705.

Ladies Sports Club Application forms are available from the Ras Al Ardh Sea Club for the proposed Ladies Sports club. The club is open from 9 am to 12 noon and 5 to 7 pm. Tel: 5740670.

PRAYERS

Fajr	4.56 am
Zohr	12.00
Asr	3.19 pm
Maghreb	5.47
Isha	7.03

PEOPLE in the Gulf are not really aware of what India has to offer as a tourist destination, according to Lalita Dasgupta, a senior travel agent who recently visited Kuwait on a tourism promotion project run by the India Tourist Office.

She had come to Kuwait to promote India as a tourist destination.

"India is close to Kuwait, yet people go to Europe for their holidays. India is familiar, but generally forgotten about. Perhaps Arabs have chosen to go to Europe because it is a novelty, or because they didn't feel wanted. India has a very strong tradition of hospitality, however, and we are trying to educate people in Kuwait about the advantages of India as a tourist destination."

India has a wide range of attractions from coastlines to mountains, from ancient temples to wildlife. "We can cater both to high and low budgets," she said. "We have resorts for skiing and surfing, or else for budget tours. A tour package can be made up especially to suit a client's interest and pocket."

In the past most tourists have visited the Delhi and Bombay regions, but places like Kashmir also have a great deal to offer.

"In June, July and August the rest of India has monsoons, but not Kashmir. Here it is possible to stay on luxurious houseboats, and to pick up car-

pets and knicknacks cheaply. It's wonderful, affordable and very restful," says Lalita.

In terms of cost, a holiday in India is quite cheap, a further advantage that is apparently overlooked.

The regional director of the India Tourist Office A N Chaturvedi stresses that the accommodation in India is excellent. "We have all the major hotel chains and there are also palaces which have been turned into hotels. This is again an experience which the traveller could not find anywhere else in the world." GS

For any queries contact Paul — Tel: 5611546.

GOING PLACES

Promoting India



Lalita Dasgupta.

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Daniella, a Danish group, invites all Danes to a coffee morning in Kuwait Towers from 9.30 am on March 6. For details contact Marianne 3948953 or Ingelise — 3903464.

Ghazal Singers

Well-known Indian ghazal singers Jagjit and Chitra Singh will give a concert on March 4, Friday, at the Kuwait Hilton. Tickets on sale at the hotel.

Photography Contest

Kapiku has extended the deadline for the Photography Contest. All entries must be submitted on or before March 31. Entrants must state the Kapiku ID number on all entries. The entries will be judged on April 7. Winning entries will be displayed at an exhibition hall (venue will be announced later). For further details contact 4877793.

Kuwait Welsh Society

Annual St David's Day dinner at Messilah Beach Hotel on Tuesday, March 1. Singer Doreen Lewis will provide entertainment. For tickets and further details phone 4874548; 3910875; 3912384.

SPORTS

Raft Race Raft Race 1988 entry forms and rules are now available from the Messilah Beach Hotel. First captain's meeting at MBH, Al Foz Suite, on March 1, 6.30 pm. For further details contact the hotel, ext. 712/751/705.

Ladies Sports Club Application forms are available from the Ras Al Ardh Sea Club for the proposed Ladies Sports club. The club is open from 9 am to 12 noon and 5 to 7 pm. Tel: 5740670.

For any queries contact Paul — Tel: 5611546.

KLT will perform the Vicar of Wakefield, an amusing tale by Oliver Goldsmith, in March. Gala evening on March 14 at 7.30 pm. Repeal performances on March 15, 16 and 17 at 8.15 pm. For reservations ring 5983724.

Kuwait Little Theatre KLT will perform the Vicar of Wakefield, an amusing tale by Oliver Goldsmith, in March. Gala evening on March 14 at 7.30 pm. Repeal performances on March 15, 16 and 17 at 8.15 pm. For reservations ring 5983724.

Flightriders If your child is BA flightrider member and has not received invitation to Flightrider Party on March 3 contact 2413868 or 2425496.

Kuwait Irish Society St Patrick's Day celebration on March 17 at the Holiday Inn Hotel. If interested contact 5621701; 5622701; 8 am to 2 pm or 5624175 after 2 pm.

Daniella

ARAB TIMES

Thought for today

A CHEERFUL friend is like a sunny day, spreading brightness all around — Sir John Lubbock, English astronomer-mathematician (1803-1865).

Parliamentary elections

Fear and apathy pervade Bangladesh

By Anis Ahmed

DHAKA. (Reuter): An uneasy mixture of fear, defiance and apathy pervades Bangladesh in the run up to next week's parliamentary elections.

Violence during elections for village councils two weeks ago, in which more than 150 people were killed and 8,000 injured, has scared some people from campaigning.

Major opposition groups have said they will boycott the poll on Thursday and called a general strike to disrupt it.

Others say the election is meaningless.

"It's going to be such a non-election. Who is going to be convinced (of its outcome)?" a diplomat asked.

Bangladesh, whose population is 107 million has seen no real campaigning. But President Hossain Mohammad Ershad is determined to go ahead with the March 3 poll because he thinks the country will plunge into a constitutional crisis without it.

Ershad called the election after dissolving the Jatiya Sangsad or National Assembly last December in an attempt to thwart an increasing opposition challenge to his six-year rule.

Killed

The political situation has since worsened, with nearly 60 people killed in clashes between police and opposition activists between November and January.

On Tuesday, an independent candidate in next week's poll was shot dead and 10 of his political workers were wounded at a campaign rally in the south-west of the country.

The bloodbath in the rural polls earlier this month has so scared people that there is virtually no electioneering in the villages.

Even in Dhaka, the bustling capital of four million, only some graffiti and a few posters remind people they are expected to exercise their right to vote soon.

Turnout

"The vote is useless because it doesn't reflect people's opinion or elect their true representatives," said Shahidul Haq, a villager in Narasingdi district near Dhaka.

"Those who have muscle power or official backing will win the elections. People virtually have no role to play," said an official working with a rural development project.

The official, who did not wish to be identified, said he acted as a polling officer in the May 1986 parliamentary elections won by Ershad but denounced as fraudulent by the opposition.

"The turnout was less than 10

No to Shultz is West Bank battle cry

By Jeffrey Bartholet

RAMALLAH, West Bank. (Reuter): Palestinian protesters, unrepresented in peace talks with US Secretary of State George Shultz this week, say he should go home.

Their slogans reflect a wider anti-American mood in the Israeli-occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip.

"I'll tell you something: We hope from the Americans nothing," said a shapower in Ramallah who was on strike. "Great America and little Israel — the lion takes orders from the mouse."

Another Palestinian, a dentist, added: "We have no hope from him. We know what he carries in his bag ... it's not good for us." The Shultz proposal includes an interim autonomy agreement for the Israeli-occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip and foresees talks starting on a complete settlement by the end of this year.

Lobby

During his five-day visit to the Middle East, Shultz will lobby for the proposal in Israel, Jordan, Egypt and Syria.

Although current efforts to revive the peace process were triggered by a Palestinian uprising in the occupied areas, Palestinians probably will not be involved in the talks.

Leading Palestinians, taking a unified stand with the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO),

per cent. But we had to say more than 60 per cent of voters turned up and the voting was honest," he said.

"Sometimes your life is at risk," he added, referring to the beheading of two election officers during the rural polls.

Government sources said many teachers and officials had refused to act as election officers despite a promise by Home Minister Mohammad Abdul Main that adequate security would be provided.

Disrupt

Ershad has said the Army will be deployed to help mainly 100,000 paramilitary police and auxiliary forces ensure peaceful voting, despite the opposition's call for a 36-hour general strike from March 2.

The twenty-one opposition groups boycotting the elections said the strike was intended to "save government lackeys from the people's wrath and help them stuff ballots in a voterless poll."

Nearly half the 76 fringe groups in the Combined Opposition Party (Cop), which is contesting the elections, have revolted against their leader, A.S.M. Abdur Rab, an associate of Ershad.

"We may join the anti-election forces and try to disrupt the farcical elections where paid agents of the government will play a dominant role," one dissident leader said.

Dhaka University teacher Shamsul Islam said: "I hate talking politics. My impression is that both the government and opposition leaders are vultures feeding on the rotting carcass of democracy."

Shopkeeper Abdul Bared said the election means "squandering of public money and trying to bluff the people."

The 16-year history of Bangladesh, formerly East Pakistan, is marked by violence and instability.

Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, who became the country's first President after the 1971 Indo-Pakistani war which led to its independence, was killed in a military coup in 1975.

In May 1981, soldier-turned-civilian President Ziaur Rahman was assassinated in another coup.

His death paved the way for his Vice-President Justice Abdus Sattar to become the President and he formalized himself as an elected leader through a national vote in November 1981.

But Sattar's rule was cut short by Ershad who ousted him in a bloodless coup in March 1982.

Since then Ershad, a 57-year-old former general, has steadily consolidated his power.

"The turnout was less than 10

Evangelists seek presidency

American fundamentalism hits the headlines

WASHINGTON: For some years, whenever the word "fundamentalism" was mentioned, it conjured up the name of the Ayatollah Khomeini and fears that his militant Islamic revolution would spill across Iran's frontiers and deluge the Middle East.

Currently, though, it is American fundamentalism, a much tamer brand, that is in the headlines. The reason is that two fundamentalist preachers, Jesse Jackson and Pat Robertson, are competing vigorously for the nomination to the American presidency.

American and Islamic fundamentalists do not have much in common except the struggle against the modern world view, modern habits, urbanisation, industrialisation and the need to revive faith in religion.

However, they differ sharply on how to achieve their goals. American fundamentalists rely on peaceful persuasion, discipline, the power of prayers and the democratic political process to spread their gospel.

But they differ sharply on how to achieve their goals. American fundamentalists rely on peaceful persuasion, discipline, the power of prayers and the democratic political process to spread their gospel.

Jackson and Robertson represent two very different basic trends among fundamentalists. Jackson favours a kind of social populism with the government assuming most of the responsibilities for the welfare of the nation and individuals.

He does not reject, as does Robertson, such forces of modernity as science, sociology and psychology, but he too preaches the virtues of thrift, discipline, sobriety and religious faith, his foreign policy concerns relate primarily to the underdeveloped world and to defusing the confrontational approach.

Committed

Robertson is a deeply committed right-wing conservative, a fervent anti-communist who says that he aims at liberating Russia from communism. He favours President Reagan's Strategic Defence Initiative and aid to the Contras in Nicaragua, the American role in the Gulf and President Reagan's Strategic Defence Initiative, a kind of safety net against incoming missiles in space. One issue every candidate is avoiding like AIDS, even though it has the front pages almost every day, is the unrest in Israel's West Bank and Gaza, the occupied territories.

He is not particularly worried about the huge American budget deficit, which, he is convinced, God will take care of, he even believes that every 50 years, during the year of jubilee people should cancel every outstanding debt as set out in the Bible. He is, of course, against abortion and in favour of prayers in schools, two

ironically, two of the most popular and powerful evangelists have recently been forced to

representing the rebels, the five million Afghan refugees and the PDPA, to replace the current PDPA monopoly, before it will sign.

The seven-party, Pakistan-based mujahideen rebel alliance refuses any power-sharing with the PDA. They say they are in the process of forming a 28-member coalition cabinet in which they will have 14 seats, exiled Afghans seven and Muslims now inside the country the remainder.

This interim government and not the PDPA, they insist, must sign any agreement reached in Geneva.

The United States, after initial scepticism, is now convinced about Soviet intentions.

"They ... regard their presence in Afghanistan as counterproductive and they would like to leave," said Secretary of State George Shultz this week.

Return

Shultz supported the idea of an interim government if it would encourage the Afghan refugees to return home.

But a US official said this week that Washington would oppose it if giving the Afghans time to set it up would delay a Geneva accord and allow Moscow to keep its troops in place.

Afghanistan itself has offered a coalition under the PDPA's "national reconciliation" programme which commands some support inside the country but is rejected by all other parties except the Soviet Union.

Torpedo

United Nations mediator Diego Cordovez, a negotiator noted for his optimism, says the gap between Islamabad and Kabul "has been closed to a point where I think a specific agreement at Geneva is clearly foreseeable."

But Cordovez has not publicly

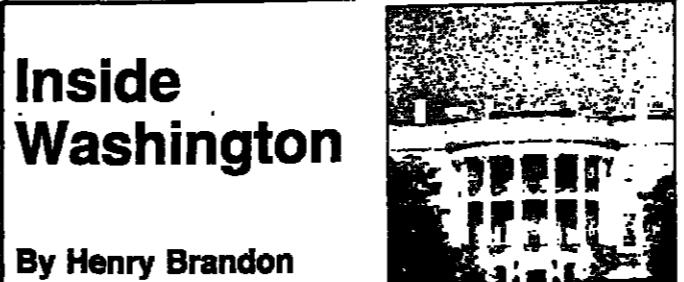
addressed all the issues, and Reuter correspondents in the capitals concerned say these could still torpedo the Geneva talks.

In Washington, they say the Reagan administration is eager to see the Soviet troops out before the president steps down in January next year.

"Front-end loading" jargon for getting the bulk of them out in the first stages of the withdrawal — and satisfaction that the pullout is irreversible are Washington's price for ending its

Inside Washington

By Henry Brandon



Pat Robertson

hotly contested issues in the elections.

Jackson, who is black, seeks to appeal to both blacks and whites. "Fifteen per cent of our nation is now in poverty," he intones with his voice soaring, "this means thirty-four million people, 23 million white and 11 million black and brown."

Then his voice dips to a guttural, but dramatic sounding whisper: "This is beyond race. Don't colour poverty black, white or brown. When a baby cries at midnight because it has no supper, that baby doesn't cry in black or white or brown." Jackson is indeed gaining supporters among whites as well, but his power base is the growing support he is gaining among blacks. Robertson can get equally emotional, especially when he speaks to church audiences.

But knowing that Americans tend to be suspicious of evangelists, especially those who dabble in

gly evident that the status quo is becoming untenable and yet, with the Israeli government politically paralysed and the Palestinian demands hardening, it is difficult to see a viable basis for compromise.

It is also evident that the United States cannot continue to stay on the sidelines. Secretary of State George Shultz decided to go to Israel for three reasons. Firstly, because the United States is the only country that could possibly act as a mediator, in fact American domestic and world public opinion demand United States' intervention, secondly, there is a need to find out whether the Israeli government is becoming desperate enough to offer the kind of concessions that could open the door to negotiations and, thirdly, there is the possibility that the Soviet Union would take advantage of the situation and involve itself as the lawyer for the Palestinians, something the United States and Israel want to avoid.

The situation facing Shultz is difficult enough if not insoluble, in addition, the secretary of state is not the skilled negotiator Henry Kissinger was and therefore gets quickly discouraged. It is also increasingly obvious that the situation has helped to unify the Palestinians and that there is hardly one left who is not a member of the PLO.

Richard Gephardt has made it the central issue of his campaign and it has served him among the most frequently discussed foreign policy issues are the future of Soviet-American relations, arms control negotiations, aid to the Contras in Nicaragua, the American role in the Gulf and President Reagan's Strategic Defence Initiative, a kind of safety net against incoming missiles in space. One issue every candidate is avoiding like AIDS, even though it has the front pages almost every day, is the unrest in Israel's West Bank and Gaza, the occupied territories.

American officials here have little hope that the Israeli government or the Palestinians are at this stage capable of making the kind of concessions that could lead to negotiations.

The former are afraid to negotiate from weakness and the Palestinians are too impressed by the success of their tactics. Nevertheless, the Reagan administration has come to realise that it must continue its search for a solution, whether it leads to progress or not.

As usual domestic issues have been dominating the primary races so far with taxes and the budget and trade deficits highest on the list. One, and it is a potent one politically, has a domestic as well as a foreign side to it: trade protectionism.

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American officials here have little hope that the Israeli government or the Palestinians are at this stage capable of making the kind of concessions that could lead to negotiations.

It is particularly embarrassing to American Jews because of the means the Israeli government is employing to suppress the demonstrations and because the issues at stake could seriously affect the long-range future of Israel. At any rate, it is increasing-

Vassiliou raises settlement hopes

By Alex Eftfy

NICOSIA, Cyprus. (AP): The election of a new president who vows political flexibility, and a thaw in Greek-Turkish relations, backed by UN resolutions, were met.

Ankara and Denktash have rejected these demands. They insist the troops are needed to protect the 120,000-strong Turkish Cypriot minority, outnumbered by more than 5-1 by Greek Cypriots.

Kyprianou had the rug pulled from under his feet two weeks before the election when Greek Prime Minister Andreas Papandreou, who had refused to talk to Ankara for years, suddenly changed his mind.

Papandreou discussed a wide range of issues with Turkish Prime Minister Turgut Ozal in the Swiss resort of Davos in late January in a summit hailed by both sides as a breakthrough.

It ended with a "no war" agreement between the two nations, and an announced determination to settle all outstanding differences peacefully.

Apart from the Cyprus problem, the main difference that has brought the two Nato allies close to war repeatedly in recent years is the issue of territorial waters and under-water oilfields in the Aegean Sea.

Greek Cypriots have pinned their hopes for a Turkish withdrawal from Cyprus on Athens. They have been led to believe that Greece would veto Turkey's application to join the European Economic Community if Ankara remained intransigent over Cyprus.

As a result, Papandreou's sudden diplomatic moves made Greek Cypriots nervous. Their anxiety increased after Athens newspapers charged that Papandreou had intervened behind the scenes to support Vassiliou against Kyprianou in the presidential race.

Greece and Turkey sought to patch together a settlement of the Cyprus problem in 1958 that laid the groundwork for independence from Britain two years later.

Under that agreement, the island's constitution gave the Turkish Cypriot minority, 17 percent of the population, equal political status with the Greek Cypriots.

The agreement also made Britain, Greece and Turkey guarantor powers with the right to intervene. The accord was widely seen by Greek Cypriots as a goodwill gesture that had fuelled hopes that some progress might be made this time around.

But whether that will satisfy the Greek Cypriots remains open to question. It is also not clear just what concessions Vassiliou is prepared to make.

Earlier negotiations under UN auspices have been

TODAY IN HISTORY

- 1594 — Britain's royal physician Roger Loper is arrested for alleged conspiracy to poison Queen Elizabeth.
- 1653 — English fleet defeats Dutch off Portland, England.
- 1806 — Austria joins Napoleon Bonaparte's "continental system." French forces capture Barcelona, Spain.
- 1825 — Britain and Russia sign treaty covering respective rights in Pacific Ocean area.
- 1868 — Benjamin Disraeli replaces Lord Derby as Britain's prime minister.
- 1876 — Carlist war in Spain ends with flight of Don Carlos.
- 1877 — Peace treaty is signed between Turkey and Serbia.
- 1911 — Australia's Premier Andrew Fisher announces plans to nationalise monopolies.
- 1920 — Hungarian constitution is adopted.
- 1933 — Nazi decree suppresses civil liberties in Germany.
- 1942 — Japanese forces land in Java, Indonesia, in World War II.
- 1956 — India and Indonesia sign mutual aid treaty.
- 1962 — United States announces that new atomic tests will be conducted in atmosphere near Johnson Island in the Pacific.
- 1974 — United States and Egypt reestablish diplomatic relations after seven-year break.
- 1987 — Philippine President Corazon Aquino announces "full and complete amnesty" to communist rebels who lay down their arms.

Martina: off court

By Judy Byrne

FORMIDABLE Martina Navratilova — one of tennis' greatest-ever women players — has taken up a new sport, scuba diving.

And she has taken to it like a champ to water.

Yet Martina, a brilliant natural athlete, could probably have made it to the top in a dozen sports.

It was scuba instructor Bert Kirchner who introduced Martina to diving, explaining: "She's a natural. She's taking it very seriously."

That's Martina. Dabbling is not her style. She paid for lessons for her long-time ladyfriend, Judy Nelson and her sons, Bale and Edward too. On top of that she also forked out for underwater cameras all round.

For the hard-edged winner of the Centre Court is only one of Martina's many faces. There is also a glamorous, amusing and insecure side to her.

Tennis came on Navratilova's horizon when she was just three. Her parents divorced. Her mother, Jana, moved with her into a single room in her old childhood home — overlooking the tennis court.

Relic

The court was a relic of the family estate where a nanny had taken care of her mother. But these were changed times. A year later, Martina introduced her mother to a man who looked after the court, Miroslav Navratil. Two years later her step-father.

Martina's own mother had played tennis, but the pressure or her from her tennis-mad father soon soured the game for the young champion-to-be.

Miroslav insisted she practice and Martina remembers: "I never had to be pushed. I loved the game, especially at the net."

"My father would say 'let's go back and hit ground strokes' but hitting from the base line is boring to me. The net was more challenging."

Martina was just 11 when the Russian tanks rolled into Czechoslovakia. Two years later, she went to Germany for her first tournament abroad...

Most people see tennis ace Martina Navratilova as the hard-edged Queen of the Centre Court. But she also has a softer, caring side — and she is just as happy helping underprivileged children as winning million dollar tennis tournaments.

It made her more sensitive to her surroundings. She says: "When I came home, I began to notice how sad people were. They couldn't write or say what they wanted. To get a pair of shoes was a major accomplishment. People had to wait in line for potatoes and pay the butcher under the counter to get good meat."

In 1973, Martina, now an American millionaire, went to the United States for the first time. She was overwhelmed by the freely available food — and returned 20 lbs heavier than she left. It went down as a black mark on her record. The authorities could see she had enjoyed her stay too much.

Two years later, she thought she was going to be refused permission to leave her country for the US Open. The authorities relented at the last moment. It was obvious that they were on to her. If she did not defect now, she might never get the chance again.

Courageously, Martina grabbed her opportunity. She did not think then that she would ever see her homeland or her parents again. But the fates were to be kinder to her.

Two weeks later she went into hiding to Greenwich Village to await permission to stay in America. The Czech authorities denounced her and threatened her with two years jail if she returned.

Eleven years on however, she was back in her own country, choking back the tears when the Czech national anthem was playing at the opening of the Federation Cup in Prague, and being besieged by autograph-hunting youngsters.

Now she has not only been able to see her parents again but to move them to Texas to a house near hers. The lifestyle didn't agree with them though and they are now back in Czechoslovakia.

She got back just in time to catch the Duke leaving the royal box. She said: "I would be

Today, another face of the big-earning, big-spending champion with a capitalist passion for fast cars and expensive jewellery is Martina — Queen of Charity.

Her Martina Foundation for Needy Children, has funded playgrounds, tennis courts, scholarships and free dental and eye treatment for needy children and guidance centres for troubled ones.

She says: "I'm able to give because now I ask fans who send me flowers or good luck Teddy bears to send five dollars for my kids instead. I have gained a great deal in America and want to give something back."

Most of the kids are from single-parent or no family situations or less fortunate economic backgrounds."

Martina, who has made more than \$10,000,000 in prize money, gives herself, too. During a tournament in Florida she slipped away to take 60 neglected and abused youngsters for a slap-up meal. But she avoids Press coverage of such events.

Her generosity can be impulsive. She once insisted on paying the bill for an old woman dining alone at a table near hers in a Manhattan restaurant because she said, "you remind me of my grandmother."

She has also been known to break her iron-like concentration during Wimbledon to help people.

When the Duchess of Kent suffered a miscarriage, Martina was saddened to see the Duke at Wimbledon without her.

So the star of the centre court who uses a bicycle to commute between the home she rents nearby and the court got on her bike, went into Wimbledon, and bought a bunch of yellow roses for the Duchess.

These days however Martina has learned to relax and let her natural charm shine through during interviews.



Martina Navratilova, there is a softer side to the tennis star that is rarely publicised.

very grateful if you would be kind enough to take these to the Duchess with my best wishes for her speedy recovery."

For ever since Martina reached the top she has been determined to help those less fortunate than her.

She explains: "I can't bear seeing people smashed by society because they don't have the right colour, religion or sex, or because they are outside the norm."

"I'll always fight for those cause — and use my name to do it."

But she has learned, too, that the freedom of the Western Press can bring its problems. Her former controversial coach, René Richards, who was once a male eye surgeon, and her series of relationships with other women have kept her permanently in the gossip columns.

These days however Martina has learned to relax and let her natural charm shine through during interviews.

When will that come? "I wish I knew," she says. "I just hope my body tells me when to stop."

By Bryan Appleyard

JOAN Baez had been worrying about the floods in Brazil and feeling guilty about the opulence of her suite at Brown's Hotel. "I'm ecstatically happy being surrounded by these beautiful things," she explains, "but there are those people in Rio de Janeiro sliding down a hill."

A quarter of a century after she first emerged as a caring pop star, the laser beam of her compassion is undimmed. From black civil rights through Vietnam, Cambodia, Poland, Northern Ireland, Spain and Ethiopia, she has stood up to be counted on just about every lead story on prime time news. Hersuitcase and guitar in hand, she has turned up on the doorsteps of Martin Luther King, Lech Walesa, Vladimir Bukovsky, Francois Mitterrand and anybody else whose name appeared next to a big issue on her shopping list.

Unlike almost every other pop star of the Sixties, she has persisted in the belief that her success was to be used as a political weapon. She still sings protest songs, she still campaigns and she still worries about The Bomb.

She was in London recently to give a concert and to publicise her autobiography. This is a relentless 400 pages which documents her sex life — including her on celebrated lesbian affair — her politics and, to some extent, her music. It is breathless, sentimental and wilfully egotistical. Reading it is like being trapped in a lift with an emotional octopus and a vast selection of holiday slides.

She is close, too, to Judy's teenaged sons, Edward, 17, and Bale, 14, with whom the star trains and swims.

People who really know Martina see other faces, too. When she is dressed up for a night out she is unexpectedly glamorous. And there is a playful side to her. Players' parties have seen her arrive wearing giant sun specs, huge bunny ears, and playing the bagpipes.

But there are still some unfulfilled ambitions for Martina. She confesses to a secret hankering to go back to college, when she has the time, to study literature and history.

When will that come? "I wish I knew," she says. "I just hope my body tells me when to stop."

Still singing for a cause



Joan Baez: creative release through writing.

She is convinced, however, that she can do something about everything else in the world. Most pressingly she wants to wake the United States from the long self-satisfied slumber of the Eighties.

Good

"People are always saying these days in America that they feel good about themselves. I happen to think that is a reaction to the paralysis after Vietnam. They couldn't handle what had been done."

But what is so bad about the Eighties? There is no Vietnam and, so far, there has been no Cuba.

"Well, the world is falling apart. It was falling apart years ago but people seemed slightly more aware of it. Everywhere in the world people have a love hate relationship with America — blue jeans and McDonalds — but we have no sense of reality about anywhere else in the world. I live in a society which is compassionate, the administration knows nothing about poor people, black people or old people."

All of which raises the ques-

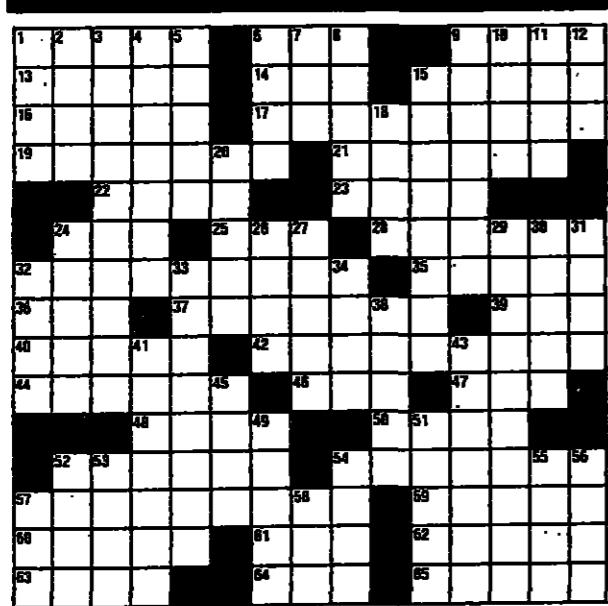
tion of what she would do if there were no causes left to fight.

"There'll always be a cause for people like myself. There will always be people who relate to the problems of the world and people who don't give a damn."

Perhaps the book's most striking passage is its coverage of the Live Aid concert. Baez opened the American end of the show and spent the rest of the day drooling over the hordes of dazzling young men backstage.

— "I was overstimulated." The sexual context combines with an obvious insecurity: she was unsure about her audience and uncertain about her role as a 45-year-old folk and protest singer among the scores of rock and rollers. Her personality, always shakily realised amidst the overwriting, finally seems to evaporate in a dim, pink, erotic aura of institutionalised benevolence. The cause and self-gratification become one; it is the apotheosis of the great Sixties illusion, Brown's Hotel and Rio in one perfect synthesis.

TODAY'S CROSSWORD



ACROSS
1 Comedians
6 Always, in poesy
9 Key letter
13 — side and down the other
14 Reine's mate
15 Namesakes of FDR's dog
16 Navigation device
17 City near 3 Down
19 Titanium dioxide
21 Wears
22 Mon., to Tues.
23 Entertainer
Tennille
24 Deg. for a museum worker
25 loss;
perplexed
28 Inscribed pillars
32 Site of 1987 British Open
35 Admired persons
36 Stray
37 Former
39 So-so grade
40 Woodland deity
42 Of a ruler
44 White as — (pale)
45 Mesh
47 Swiss mountain
48 — Eban
50 He, to Luigi
52 Turmoil
54 Lockjaw symptom
57 Historic home of golf
59 Precedes end or leaf
60 Saree wearer
61 Blue Eagle agcy.
62 Broadway musical
63 Molt
64 City of the Firth of Clyde

DOWN
1 Dance, in Lahaina
2 Stanford
3 "Ford" in NE Scotland
4 Running wild
5 California rockfishes
6 Soprano Mills
7 Ages and ages
8 Fastener for Rosie
9 Passed back and forth
10 Robert
11 Soviet press agcy.
12 Jenny
13 Space is the last one
14 God of love
15 Impart color to wood
16 Observed
17 Emanations
20 Dreamers
21 Eliot's Marner
22 Locales of Ulta Mountains
23 Sheet of stamps
24 Peter or Nicholas
25 Govt. news dispenser
26 Observed
27 Mississippi River city
28 Song
29 — in the dark
30 Donkey, in Osnabruck
31 Tableland
33 Augur
34 Have a repeat
35 Alma —
36 Longed
37 Italian chest of the Renaissance
38 Alma —
39 Alpine —
40 Italian chest of the Renaissance
41 Ski lift
42 Game piece
43 Elliot's Marner
44 Game piece
45 Skier
46 Dreamers
47 Eliot's Postage
48 Rodeos
49 Hera
50 Goa
51 Iron
52 Steamboats
53 Taut
54 Artie
55 Sods
56 Stems

ANSWER TO PREVIOUS PUZZLE:

PANES	TRAM	PSITS
AGORA	RARE	OTOE
CREAMPUFFS	URSA	
EEL	PACT	SANEAT
RESTAGE	PANDA	
DONE	LAGO	MEA
BARTS	DREAMERS	
AGEE	MULES	ERIE
TEAMMATE	GASCA	
ARMITER	FAN	
ELLIS	POSTAGE	
RODEOS	HERA	GOA
IRON	STEAMBOATS	
TAUT	EWER	ARTIE
ALTO	SODS	STENS

GOREN BRIDGE

BY CHARLES GOREN AND OMAR SHARIF

THOSE CONFOUNDED OVERTRICKS

Both vulnerable. West deals.

NORTH

♦ A K 10 8
♥ J

♦ Q 10 8 6 5 2

♦ K 6

WEST

♦ 7 2

♦ K 7 2

♦ J 9 7 4

♦ 8 7 4 3

EAST

♦ Q 9 6 5 4

♦ 10 9 8 5

♦ K

♦ A Q 5

SOUTH

♦ J 3

♦ A Q 6 4 3

♦ A 3

♦ J 10 9 2

BIDDING:

West

North

East

South

Pass

1 ♠

Pass

2 ♠

Pass

Pass

Opening lead: Two of ♠

event at the Fall North American Championship, both teams reached an excellent three no trump contract. Sitting in the West seat was Zia Mahmood, a player always ready to stir things up. The normal lead from top of nothing is your highest card, but when Zia elected to lead a spade on this hand, he chose the two. That had dramatic repercussions in the play.

As can be seen from the diagram, most opening leads yield nine tricks. Faced with a low spade lead, declarer played the eight from dummy, covered by the nine and won by the jack. When the ace of diamonds dropped the king, declarer had at least nine tricks for the taking — three spades, five diamonds and the ace of hearts. But was that going to be enough to either tie or win the board? If the spade lead was normal, the declarer at the other table might come to 10 tricks by repeating the spade finesse.

After finessing the ten of diamonds, cashing the queen and conceding a diamond, declarer was faced with a spade continuation by West. He chose to finesse the ten, and when East produced the queen declarer found himself with no entry to dummy. In the end, he could gather no more than seven tricks for down two.

On this deal from the final of the Reisinger Board-a-Match team

Board-a-Match team championships are unlike any other form of team competition. You can either win, tie or lose a board in a head-to-head encounter with another team, so overtricks assume enormous importance — even more than in pair competition. That can produce rather surprising results, at times.

On this deal from the final of the Reisinger Board-a-Match team

THE WIZARD OF ID



B.C.



YOUR STARS



Aries (March 20 - April 18)

SNIPPETS

Senate indulges in 'exorcism'

THE Senate momentarily diverted its attention from serious legislative business to "exorcism."

However, the exorcism was political in nature.

In the plenary session before a jampacked crowd, the senators engaged in debate on bills seeking to "exorcise" the names "Marcos" and "Imelda" from towns and other public places and institutions.

The senators unanimously approved two bills of such nature, one changing the name of a Palawan town from "Marcos" to "Dr Jose P. Rizal," and another, a Romblon town from "Imelda" to "Sta. Maria."

But the exorcism is not yet complete. The senators said that several bills of the same nature are still being prepared in the House of Representatives where bills of local application are filed.

They said that reviewing such bills and giving them their stamp of approval would take precious time out serious business.

Skulls found in Bulacan

ABOUT 20 human skulls belonging to salvage victims were unearthed in several rebel graveyards in Bulacan recently.

The grim find was discovered by soldiers of the 175th PC Company and Third Scout Ranger Company during their weeklong manoeuvres in different sites in Barangay Camachang and Carmahile, Dona Remedios, Bulacan.

The skulls and bones were in a cage covered with dried leaves and situated under big trees. Among them was the decomposing body of a woman.

The place is near the Bandera mountain, the training ground of New People's Army rebels in Bulacan.

It was the scene of a bloody fight between the military and rebels last April.

Capt Felizardo Serapio, Jr commander of the 175th PC Company, said they have been looking for the graveyards since last year after they were informed about it by a rebel from Camp Bandera who surrendered.

Serapio said the skulls and bones probably belong to missing vendors who were picked up by the rebels on the suspicion that they were military informers.

ID card plan under study

TRANSPORTATION Secretary Rainerio Reyes said recently there was nothing definite about the national reference card system proposed by the Department of National Defence.

"We are merely going to conduct a feasibility study on the proposal which is in the discussion stage," Reyes said.

Reyes, head of a Cabinet committee formed to look into the proposal, said that under this system, each citizen will receive an identification card.

Military authorities said earlier that this would help in the insurgency campaign.

Pointing out that this proposal would be very expensive and complex, Reyes said it would take a good deal of time before a recommendation can be made.

His feasibility study would focus on three aspects:

1. The desire of the people to participate in the programme.

2. The economic feasibility of the programme.

3. The technical realism of implementation.

"Most important is if the people want it," he said.

Earlier, Defence Secretary Fidel V. Ramos said the proposal was not entirely from his department, "but a perceived need by many agencies."

Presidential military adviser Gen Jose Magno said the programme would update the country's census and statistics records.

Movie star's husband slain

THE husband of former movie actress Merle Fernandez was shot dead by several men with automatic machine pistols as the victim stepped out of his house in Quezon City.

Police said the victim, Romeo N. Batol, 34, was slain at about 3:30 in the morning.

Batol had just opened the front door of his antique shop at his residence at 10-C Karnis Road, QC, when he was met by a hail of bullets from automatic machine pistols.

His shop was only a few metres away from the police headquarters on E. de los Santos Ave.

Police recovered at least 23 empty shells of 9-millimetre bullets from the crime scene.

Batol, who suffered many bullet wounds in the body, died on the spot.

Gringo accuses Ramos of corruption....

By Ed Perpina and Marlen Ronquillo

CHARGES of corruption and lack of combat experience from the leader of the Aug 28 coup and group of young military officers were leveled against Defence Secretary Fidel V. Ramos in an apparent bid to block his confirmation by the Commission on Appointments.

The bicameral commission has scheduled hearings on Ramos' nomination.

But the defence secretary appeared to be taking the charges in stride. Informed of them, Ramos said: "If that's the case, then I just have to defend myself before the commission."

In a letter to a congressman last week, the contents of which were bared to the media, dismissed Army Col Gregorio "Gringo" Honasan accused Ramos of having "promoted syndicated corruption" in the armed forces by "placing his close associates in strategic command posts."

Enclosed in Honasan's letter were computer printouts of a report earlier submitted by fellow renegade officer, Air Force Col Hector Tarazona, to Sen Mamintal Tamano.

That report, according to

sources, told of irregularities in the AFP's financial institutions, an unjust promotions system and abuse of soldiers' human rights.

In his letter, Honasan claimed Ramos, as chief of staff of the armed forces, formed his own "comptroller family" to cover up for shortfalls in the AFP's budget.

A comptroller regulates the release of budget and checks these releases against the approved budget plan.

Honasan said Ramos' comptroller family "gave rise to syndicated corruption in the (military's) budget-clearing system" because "the members were able to manipulate accounting and audit reports of every military unit."

Honasan claimed the comptroller family system — established during the Marcos years — "was never dismantled" by Ramos.

Honasan said Ramos, in perpetuating the practice, assigned as head of the AFP comptroller office two officials who are "notoriously known as sources of reasons for corruption."

Honasan alleged that the patronage system in the AFP was "never really changed" by Ramos. He cited two cases:

● The assignment of a certain Colonel Filler to the Intelligence



Philippines Defence Secretary Fidel Ramos: denies charges

Service of the AFP (ISAFA) as assistant chief "when in fact he (Filler) was never in the intelligence community."

● Opportunities for foreign schooling were open only to close relatives of Ramos.

Tarazona, a former special assistant of former Defence Secretary Rafael Ileto, said in a report that he was a victim of the unjust promotions system in the AFP. He claimed he "deserved to be promoted" to full colonel effective Jan 1, last year or almost eight months before the Aug 28 coup attempt but that Malacanang withdrew its nomination for

Tarazona's promotion after he was implicated in the putsch.

On alleged anomalies in AFP financial institutions, Tarazona reported that the current president and general manager of the AFP Savings and Loan Association Inc., whom he did not name, granted interest-free loans worth P2 million to himself and other key officers of AFP-SLA.

Claimed

He claimed the official has not been relieved of his post despite recommendations made by the AFP Anti-graft and Corrupt Practices Board.

The other charges against Ramos were hurled by a group calling itself "Young Officers of the Armed Forces of the Philippines on Appointments."

They were contained in an information sheet, copies of which were furnished all members of the 25-man Commission on Appointments.

Although the sheet did not carry the signatures of the accusers, the information provided now forms part of the materials from which the CA members could base their questions to Ramos during confirmation hearings.

A copy of the "charge sheet" said Ramos has total assets of a little over P5 million — mostly

... but defence chief is undisturbed

By Cesar Espino

DEFENCE Secretary Fidel V. Ramos shrugged off the corruption charges against him, saying his accusers had "obvious" reasons for doing so.

"The people making these statements are apparently those now being disciplined, again as part of the reforms we are instituting in the armed forces," Ramos said in an interview.

Ramos said dismissed Army Lt Col Gregorio Honasan and former Air Force Lt Col Hector Tarazona, classmates in the Philippine Military Academy, had made similar attempts in the past to destroy his image.

Ramos denied Tarazona's charges that he was being

dethroned because of what he knows about an alleged syndicate being maintained by Ramos in the operation of financial institutions of the AFP and its overall comptrollership.

Tarazona is being held on the basis of a written testimony of Maj Gen Antonio Sotelo, Air Force chief, Ramos said. Sotelo had said that Tarazona called him up at the height of the Aug 28 coup attempt, asking the general to surrender because rebel forces under Tarazona had taken over Villamor air base, which houses the PAF headquarters.

Ramos also furnished a photocopy of a Jan 19 letter he submitted to then Defense

Secretary Rafael Ileto detailing the achievements of the different AFP financial institutions.

Ramos said that after the February 1986 revolution, major changes in the management of AFP financial institutions had to be taken, including the formation of a board of directors, to oversee operations.

The letter showed significant increase in the earnings of the different financial institutions.

Ramos said in his letter to Ileto: "The improvements in the overall financial performance and delivery of benefits to members of the service are attributed to the policy initiatives directed by the AFP leadership; the gen-

eral improvements in the economy, and the continued thrust and reformist attitude of the respective board and management of these institutions that sought to achieve the best in terms of earnings for the respective institutions and delivery of services/benefits to the members."

Ramos added that the successes of the financial institutions are also largely attributed to austerity measures he initiated not only within these institutions but also within the entire armed forces.

Ramos appeared undisturbed by the charges. When told that the report is already with the Commission on Appointments,

Ramos said: "Well, if that's the case, I guess I will just have to defend myself before the commission."

On the charges that he had been putting his men to handle the comptrollership of the AFP, Ramos briefly answered: "We appoint persons on the basis of performance, or those who are capable of doing the job."

He did not comment on similar charges of corruption levelled against him by a group of young officers. The group also claimed Ramos has had no combat experience and that he got his high position in the military because of "powerful connections."

Anti-porn bill gains support

By Teddy C. Ramos

A BILL seeking the imposition of harsh penalties on violators of laws against obscenity and pornography has gained the support of various groups, including a human rights organisation.

Filed by Rep. Mario Serr Ty of the first district of Surigao del Sur, House Bill No. 3111 proposes a penalty of both imprisonment of more than 10 years and a fine of not less than P200,000 but not more than P800,000 on violators of the law.

Airing their views before the committee on public information, chaired by Rep. Michael C. Mastura (Magandanao) during a hearing on the bill, Arima Siguion Reyna,

Gold found in Tarlac settlement

CAPAS, Tarlac — Aside from farming, some 300 families near the Camp O'Donnell communications facilities here are now engaged in gold panning at the Cabatuwan River which flows from the Zambales mountains and is of high grade, that is, 24K.

Aurelio Ocampo and Dominador Andres, Zone E officials of the Department of Agrarian Reform resettlement projects in the area, reported that the gold panning has improved the living conditions of the settlers.

The settlers sell the gold at P250 per gram to buyers from Central Luzon and Manila.

Mrs Constance Rivers, one of the settlement leaders, said the gold panners have an unwritten rule that they should engage in panning activities together and there should be no quarrelling. Otherwise, they believe they will get nothing.

This belief has resulted in successful gold panning, according to Mrs Rivers.

Andres said that the Cabatuwan River is shown in Bureau of Mines maps as part of future mine areas and this might be the reason why some of the gold spills are already panned by the settlers.

Andres also said that the settlers have appealed to the government for the construction of a bridge in Paluglog to facilitate transports from the settlement to the provincial road.

During the rainy season, the settlement is isolated by floodwaters due to the absence of the bridge, Andres said.

Missionary conduit for Marcos funds

A FOREIGN based missionary organisation has been used as a conduit for funds deposited Marcos disburses to his loyalists, says a Manila newspaper.

Founded by a former military man who is a known Marcos loyalist, the organisation has invested in various businesses in Metro Manila to make it appear that its disbursement of money is legal.

Among these are hograising, garment making, groceries, coffee shops, a beauty parlour and a pharmacy, the paper said.

He had overtaken the popularity of Eat Bulaga's Aiza Seguerra and Lunch Date's Randy Santiago, and has matched the public's interest in Lotlot de Leon and Matel.

His edge over the rest is the fact that he has "roots" — he was a soap star in Gulong ng Palad, Heredero and TV Box-Office.

Are the Marcoses coming home?

By Willie Ng

IN the coffee-shops the other week, the talk was that Malacanang was keeping a death watch on the Marcos home in Honolulu.

The idea was that if it was determined that former President Ferdinand Marcos was seriously ill, he would be allowed to come home.

That turned out to be hogwash, because Marcos, as reported by recent visitors to his home, is as healthy as a man of his age and with his record of illness can wish to be.

Far from being bed-ridden, he is up and about, and entertaining visitors up to late in the night.

A recent visitor to the Marcos home reports that its occupants are highly titillated by visits to the former president by "high level" officials of the administration.

Marcos has admitted to serious negotiations concerning his homecoming. The terms are not unreasonable.

He said that things would be jelling in two weeks.

Viewed against this backdrop, news reports about Imelda Marcos trying to take a PAL flight incognito from Honolulu to Manila Tuesday, "but changed her mind at the last minute," have no basis.

The former first lady did show up at the Honolulu airport, but definitely not to board the plane.

She is not crazy. She will not abandon the comfort of her Honolulu home for an uncertain future in Manila.

Who among her former highly placed friends would even dare to meet her at the airport? Times have changed and she is the first one to know it.

Right now, she has high hopes that with a little waiting, she may come home with a valid passport.

As the father of martial law now entertains strong hopes of coming home, his successor administration is reportedly thinking of instituting emergency measures.

the hotel's security office reporting Lacanaria's indiscretion.

Lacanaria, Ross said, was given a 15-day suspension and was eventually terminated on Jan 29. Ross said they expected Lacanaria to send them an appeal and were surprised when they received a notice of strike from the hotel union instead in protest of Lacanaria's dismissal.

Lacanaria, the union said, denied the Japanese woman's accusations and told them that it had been the girl who had tried to seduce him.

Hotel security officers said, however, that Lacanaria had gone back to the guest's room an hour after the alleged kissing incident to ask the guest for an apology. The security officers said that the guest had told them of Lacanaria's apology.

The union claimed that they have paralysed hotel operations and that truck loads of hotel guests have already moved out of the hotel. They said that billy boys from the tennis courts have been asked by management to fill in as room attendants and the head of the property maintenance has to clean the lawn.

Union president Felix Ledonio said their complaints also include the hotel's alleged non-distribution of service charge amounting to P1.5 million in three years, non-regularisation of some 300 employees who have rendered six months of service, and non-compliance of reinstatement of some officials and employees terminated despite an order from the National Labour Relation Commission to reinstate these employees.

Kiss triggers hotel strike!

A KISS stolen from a female Japanese hotel guest by a room attendant allegedly triggered the strike of some 170 employees of the Philippine Plaza Hotel.

</div

Hoffman's

Murder was their business

Bonnie and Clyde: the brutal truth

By Kate Molloy

HE was a callous murderer who thought nothing of killing for a few coins. She was his lover who revelled in unnecessary violence.

Yet Bonnie and Clyde are now romantic legends thanks to the silver screen.

During their criminal reign in the 1930's, Bonnie Parker and Clyde Barrow wreaked havoc on America's small towns murdering for petty sums and revelling in giving the police the slip.

They were on top of America's most wanted list yet, when two of Hollywood's favourite performers starred in a film about the infamous villains, cinema audiences all over the world fell in love with the criminal heroes.

Superstar Warren Beatty and Faye Dunaway portrayed the murderers in 1967, but what audiences saw was a whitewash of the callous events that really took place more than 30 years before.

Back in 1930, petite, fair-haired Bonnie Parker met Clyde Barrow, in Texas. She was 19 and recovering from the shock that her tear-away husband, Roy Thornton had been sentenced to 99 years in jail for murder.

It seemed that Bonnie was destined to a life with criminals after 21-year-old Clyde was arrested for burglary on the first night he visited her house. He was sentenced to 14 years in jail, so desperate to get out, he persuaded another prisoner to cut off his toes with an axe. He was released on crutches and headed straight back to Bonnie.

They moved in together and Clyde tried to earn a living by playing the saxophone. It was futile and before long, he was back to burglary and back in jail.

After Bonnie passed a Colt .38 through the jail bars, during a visit Clyde once again escaped.

Obsessed with the handsome Clyde, Bonnie willingly became his partner in crime. He drove a nippy black Ford V-8 and Bonnie was the devoted navigator.

Sometimes Bonnie turned driver of the stolen getaway saloon cars.

When, on Christmas Day 1932, Clyde let off his .45 revolver at 27-year-old salesman Doyle Johnson, whose brand new car he was attempting to steal it was Bonnie who drove the couple away from the scene of the crime.

Bonnie and Clyde robbed filling stations and county stores as they drove across America. But their greed for money and food would soon breed murder.

On October 11, 1932, the couple were driving through the small town of Sherman, north of Dallas, when they spotted a general store that looked very promising.

Bonnie entered smiling, with Clyde following her. She asked for a loan of bread and a can of salmon. She offered the shopkeeper, Howard Hall, a five dollar bill.

Just as casually Clyde gave his order. The shopkeeper reached for a meat cleaver and Clyde shot him dead at close range.

Bonnie and Clyde fled from the store and shot off in the car towards the Texas plains.

For shooting Howard Hall their profit was the paltry sum of \$28. Such the callousness of

Hollywood white-washed their career and made them a legend, but Bonnie Parker and Clyde Barrow were a callous couple who murdered time after time for a few dollars



The infamous Bonnie Parker. She thought nothing of killing for a few dollars.



Clyde Barrow poses with part of his arsenal.

Bonnie and Clyde.

Their robberies were mostly on the minor side, but their escapades were extremely violent!

Their biggest haul was \$3,500 stolen from a filling station at Grand Prairie.

Bonnie and Clyde celebrated with a motoring holiday around Missouri, Kansas and Michigan, staying at top hotels and eating at expensive restaurants.

When the money ran out, they reverted to petty crime, murdering for surprisingly small amount of money.

Bonnie coolly shot a Texas butcher three times in the

stomach before robbing him. Sixteen-year-old William Jones, a new member of the gang, shot dead the owner of a car they were stealing.

Shooting to kill had become an automatic reflex.

In March 1933 the gang was joined in Missouri by Clyde's brother, Buck and his wife Blanche.

They narrowly escaped arrest from the apartment they were all staying in and shot dead two policemen in their escape bid.

It was obvious that there was no safe house for the gang, so they went back on the road.

They dug 25 bullets out of Clyde and 23 out of Bonnie. Yet the legend lives on.

Recognised

At last Bonnie and Clyde drove up, at speed. Clyde recognised the jacked up truck and stopped to investigate. Bonnie screamed a warning but it was too late: The lawmen opened fire and a torrent of bullets pumped into the car.

Bonnie and Clyde died as brutally as they had murdered others.

They dug 25 bullets out of Clyde and 23 out of Bonnie. Yet the legend lives on.



The remains of Clyde Barrow after he was gunned down by police.



The bullet-riddled car that belonged to Bonnie and Clyde.

The body of murderer Bonnie Parker. Police pumped 23 bullets into her body.



A giant catfish measuring two metres is hauled up by Thai fishery officials from the Mekong river.

Thais cash in on giant catfish

By Siriporn Buranaphan

BANGKOK, — Legend says the giant catfish comes only from heaven but a Thai biologist has found it can be bred in the laboratory for a profit.

The rare fish, considered sacred by Mekong River dwellers, has for centuries been highly prized for its rich, heavily-farmed flesh and pungeant eggs.

Seven years ago, when the giant catfish was on the brink of extinction, the Thai government decided to disregard the myths and cash in on its popularity by breeding it on farms.

Sanoh Pholprasith, director of the Freshwater Fish Department, started a project to artificially inseminate the fish, known in Thai as Pla Bak, and distribute the fry to villagers throughout Thailand.

"The first difficulty was catching the fish," he said in an interview.

Some day they will go down together,

And they will bury them side by side.

To a few it means grief

To the law it's relief

But it's death to Bonnie and Clyde

Two furious Texan deputies, Bob Alcorn and Ted Hinton, received information that the couple were making for the farm of one of their associates, Henry Methvin. It was decided to speed a posse ahead and set up an ambush.

Two days and nights were spent at the roadside by the miserable lawmen, until on May 23, 1934, a Ford truck rattled into view. Hinton spotted Irvine Methvin, Henry's elderly father, at the wheel. The police surrounded the truck and ordered Methvin senior out. The front wheel was removed and the vehicle jacked up.

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BUSINESS & FINANCE

US trade policy group urges new action against Japan

WASHINGTON, February 27. (Xinhua): A top US trade policy review group has urged President Reagan to initiate a trade retaliation case against Japan, accusing Japan of unfairly closing its construction market to US companies. US press reports said today.

The policy group composed of senior administration officials voted yesterday unanimously to recommend the move following deadlocked negotiations on opening Japanese construction market to foreign companies in Tokyo last week.

The recommendation must be endorsed by the cabinet-level economic policy council led by Treasury Secretary James Baker before going to the president.

During the Tokyo negotiations last week, American officials said the Japanese had made few concessions. The Japanese were willing to provide opportunities for heavy construction work, but excluded engineering and high-technology jobs where American companies have the greatest know-how, American officials said.

Unfair

The sanctions on unfair trade, authorised under section 301 of the Trade Act of 1974, would be far broader than the action already taken by Congress in the form of an amendment which barred Japanese companies from taking part in new US federal public works contracts until the US determines that the Japanese market has been opened sufficiently.

The retaliation being considered is similar to that already in place against Japan over the semiconductor dispute. The US still has sanctions against \$165 million worth of Japanese electronics products.

Construction first emerged as an important trade issue during talks about Kansai International Airport, the \$8 billion facility that is being built on an artificial island off the Japanese city of Osaka.

The talks subsequently expanded to cover Japanese public works in general, which by some estimates could total about \$60 billion over the next 10 years.

Britain's Lloyds Bank reports losses

LONDON, Feb 27. (UPI): Lloyds Bank Plc, the last of Britain's "big four" clearing banks to report, today announced losses for 1987 of £244 million after provisions against loans to developing countries of up to 34 per cent.

This made Lloyds only the second major British bank after Midland Bank earlier in the week — to report an annual trading loss this century. Both deficits were due to making exceptional set-asides to cushion against possible bad Third World debts.

Provisions

The Lloyds pattern followed the other three. Good domestic profitability was hit by the need for increased provisions against international loans and losses and cutbacks from investment banking activities.

Profits for the whole Lloyds group jumped from £700 million in 1986 to £818 million in 1987 before taking into account the £1.066 billion of exceptional provisions, Lloyds said.

Underlying the increase was a strong 32 per cent increase in British retail banking, where strong performances from personal banking, credit card business, estate agency and insurance broking pulled in profits of £562 million, it said.

Contribution

Corporate banking improved its contribution by 13 per cent to £80 million, although lending margins continued under pressure, it said.

Even before the exceptional provisions, international banking profits were down from £139 million to £117 million, with good profits in some parts of the world offset by the non-payment of interest by some countries, mainly Brazil, it said.

The dividend was still raised by 10 per cent, with chairman Sir Jeremy Morse allowing it to be paid out of the reserves, which include undistributed profits from earlier years.

This, and stockmarket feeling that a capital raising exercise will not be needed at the moment, pushed Lloyds shares up 5 pence to 272 pence.

Move to rejuvenate drought-ravaged economy

India must opt for tough fiscal discipline

At a glance

	(in crores of rupees)		
	Actuals 1986-87	Budget estimate 1987-88	Revised estimate 1987-88
(A) Gross traffic receipts	7595.66	8179.00	8474.00
(B) Ordinary working expenses	5300.56	5750.00	6045.00
(C) Appropriation to depreciation reserve fund	1250.00	1350.00	1350.00
(D) Appropriation to pension fund	350.00	450.00	450.00
(E) Total working expenses (B)+(C)+(D)	6900.56	7550.00	7845.00
(F) Net traffic receipts	685.10	629.00	629.00
(G) Net miscellaneous receipts	75.74	92.00	96.00
(H) Net railway revenue	680.84	721.00	765.00
(I) Dividend Payment	578.85	652.00	640.00
(J) General revenues	(+)101.99	(+)569.00	(+)69.00
(K) Appropriation to railway development fund	101.99	69.00	69.00
(L) Payment of deferred dividend liability	92.2%	92.3%	92.3%
(M) Operating ratio	6.6%	6.2%	6.2%
(N) Percentage of net revenue before payment of dividend to general revenues on the capital-charge	92.8%	92.8%	92.8%

reduced this year's food-grain crop to 130 million tons instead of the projected 160 million tons.

Sitesh said the poor harvest may force India to buy grain on world markets. Newspapers reported recently that New Delhi has sent feelers to Washington about purchasing US wheat and corn.

Government stockpiles prevented food shortages, but the Reserve Bank of India said the water problems already have

reduced this year's food-grain crop to 130 million tons instead of the projected 160 million tons.

Sitesh said the poor harvest may force India to buy grain on world markets. Newspapers reported recently that New Delhi has sent feelers to Washington about purchasing US wheat and corn.

Against this backdrop, experts say Tiwari is confronted by other economic ills.

The government has failed to balance its books and owes some Rs. 84 billion, about 20 per cent of this to foreign lending agencies. Experts expressed concern

that much of the borrowed money is being channelled into stop-gap, unproductive ventures.

"We have not yet reached a point of no return, but are slowly walking into a debt trap," said B S Minhas, professor at the Indian Statistical Institute.

But V L Rao of the Centre for Policy Research, a government-aided "think tank," said industries have done marginally well under Gandhi, achieving preset targets and last year expanding at a rate of 8 per cent.

Most of the success has been in the private sector, which has expanded to cater to India's burgeoning middle class.

But problems remain in the key public sector industries, an area Gandhi vowed to rejuvenate when he was elected in December 1984. He also promised to liberalise an economy snared by bureaucratic pedantry and rigid, centralised planning.

However, the 43-year-old leader has failed to resuscitate the notoriously inefficient state-run ventures.

The railway budget proposes a 6 per cent increase in freight rates to net Rs 241 crores. Certain essential commodities, like fertilisers, foodgrains, pulses, salt, edible oils, fodder and jaggery and livestock exempted.

Reservations for air-conditioned first class will be Rs 12, for AC sleeper and first class Rs 6 and for AC chair car and second sleeper Rs 5 and for second class Rs 2.

Second class (ordinary) fares increased. Flat increase per ticket ranges between a minimum of 50 paisa for distance upto 10 km, and a maximum of Rs 3 for distances beyond 150 km.

Parcel and luggage rates up by 10 per cent to net Rs 23 crores.

Surplus budget of Rs 28 crores after paying full dividend of Rs 736 crores to general exchequer.

The price of platform ticket increased by 50 paisa.

Second class monthly season ticket fares increased.

The increase ranges between Rs 4 and Rs 8 at different distance legs from 1 to 150 km.

Flat increase per ticket in air-conditioned chair car fares by an amount ranging between a minimum of Rs 5 for the distance slab one to 100 km and a maximum of Rs 25 for distances beyond 1000 km.

Ten per cent increase in fares for first class, both for single journey and monthly season tickets, made with effect from 1.1.1987 for drought relief to continue as fare increase.

Second class Mail Express fares goes up. The hike ranges between Rs 2 for distance upto 50 km to Rs 15 for distances beyond 750 km.

Fares

In air-conditioned sleeper fares there has been a flat increase per ticket ranging between a minimum of Rs 10, for the distance slab one to 50 km and a maximum of Rs 95 for distances beyond 1300 km.

The new fares would be effective from April 1, 1988.

There will be a 10 per cent increase in the existing fares for all distances for air-conditioned first class in addition to the surcharge of 10 per cent levied with effect from November 1 last, on first class and first class air-conditioned, which will continue as fare increase.

World Business Summary

Progress cited in US trade bill talks

WASHINGTON, Feb 27. (Reuters): Negotiators hammering out a compromise US trade bill on Thursday said significant progress had been made towards shaping legislation acceptable to the White House. The House of Representatives and Senate have each passed their own version of a trade bill. The White House has condemned both as protectionist. Congressional negotiators were working on a compromise. "We made substantial progress," said Senator Lloyd Bentsen following a closed-door meeting of Senate negotiators.

Bentsen, who heads the Senate contingent in the talks, said his side was trying to accommodate White House concerns about the legislation, which would affect US trade policy in numerous areas. "I think the administration has done extremely well," Bentsen told reporters.

The 199-member House-Senate negotiating team agreed to deal with what were considered "less controversial" items first, and then tackle the more difficult provisions, such as one that would require US retaliation against trading partners with unfair barriers against American goods.

The administration has strongly objected to a so-called "sugar drawback" provision that would allow US sugar cane refiners to receive government refunds for duties paid on past sugar imports. The White House said a few large refiners would reap a windfall of up to \$70 million under this provision. The administration also has fought against a provision that would impose quotas on the amount of lamb brought into the United States.

Hong Kong economy still competitive despite crash

HONG KONG, February 27. (Xinhua): Despite the unprecedented stock market crash late last year, Hong Kong's competitiveness in world markets is stronger now than it has been for a decade. This point is stressed by the Hong Kong and Shanghai Banking Corporation in its February economic report issued today.

The report notes that over the last two years, corporate profits have shown substantial growth: in 1986, Hong Kong's average net earnings went up by 35.5 percent, and in 1987, the earnings are estimated to have increased by 30 per cent. "And in 1988, expectations of a 15 per cent to 20 per cent increase are not unrealistic given the GDP projections for the year." The report is confident that the Hong Kong economy now has the "necessary momentum to weather the impact of weaker world demand and new trade restrictions."

Any consideration of long-term corporate earnings growth must take into account Hong Kong's expanding economic ties with the one million workers on the mainland who either are employed by, or receive manufacturing orders from, Hong Kong, compared with the 900,000 manufacturing workers within the territory itself.

"In the longer term the availability of lower cost labour and land, coupled with China's rapidly expanding demand for Hong Kong's transport, financial and tourism services, is expected to give local corporate profitability a healthy boost," it says. It also stresses that although Hong Kong's manufacturing sector only accounts for about 22 per cent of its GDP, its continued well-being is essential to a steady progress of other economic sectors.

Pessimism on growth prospects unfounded

PARIS, Feb 27. (Reuters): Leading industrial nations have agreed that pessimism on global expansion prospects after the October stock market crash was unfounded and that world growth estimates made then would have to be revised upward.

Economists from the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) agreed to boost a 1988 estimate of West German growth to 1.75 per cent from a previously seen 1.5 per cent, diplomats and government officials said.

Impact

Speaking after a committee meeting yesterday, Bernhard Molitor, vice-president of West Germany's powerful Bundesbank Central Bank, also told Reuters: "It is clear now that people were much

too pessimistic last October. The stocks crash had very little effect on growth."

Japan had also performed much stronger than expected, diplomats said.

The officials were attending a special session on the organisation's economic policy committee which meets semi-annually to set guidelines for ministerial discussion and lay the groundwork for industrial nations summits.

Lower

Molitor said the OECD upward revision now roughly coincided with Bonn's own growth estimates and may even be at the lower limit of possibilities.

West Germany, whose powerful economy plays a pivotal role in Europe, came under strong

pressure last year from the United States and its European trading partners to boost internal growth, thereby allowing similar action by the rest of Europe.

West German officials said

budgetary and fiscal policies had been adjusted as much as was possible to boost growth at home and this would probably reach some 3.3 per cent in 1987, albeit slowing to between 2.5 and 3 per cent for 1988.

Analysts doubt the government will be able to market the entire \$10-billion package. Mexican officials, they say, want to sell at least \$3 billion of the old debt.

The plan was devised by the Mexican and US governments to try to reduce Mexico's heavy debt burden, the second highest in the developing world after Brazil.

Successful

Christine Bindert, senior vice-president at the financial firm of Shearson Lehman Brothers Inc. in New York, said the programme "should be fairly successful with a lot of participation, particularly from European and US regional banks."

However, major US banks were expected to shun the programme.

Analysts predict the average discount rate will range from 60 cents to 70 cents on the dollar.

Mexico is likely to announce next week how many of the bids it will accept.

Many bankers have been hesitant to say if they will bid.

Participation

"We're still studying the programme in terms of our own participation," said James H Mitchell, spokesman for Bank of America in San Francisco.

In London, none of Britain's big four commercial banks has announced it will take part.

"We haven't said what we're going to do," said a Lloyds spokesman. Added a spokesman for National Westminster, "our decision hasn't been made yet." Both demanded anonymity.

West Germany's largest bank, the Deutsche Bank, said it will bid.

"There had been so many proposals to solve this problem," said spokesman Hans Dettmar. "Finally this plan comes up. It's a new approach, and we want to see how it works."

Yours, at CEPZ

CEPZ or Cochin Export Processing Zone Set up by the Government of India, has successfully completed 23 projects.

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A splendid chance, which with the aid of CEPZ's many facilities and incentives will bring you – the world on a silver platter!

Infrastructural facilities:

Located just 8 Kms away from Cochin city, CEPZ is situated on a plot of about 100 acres.

The facilities here include:

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- 2. Constant supply of water and power.
- 3. All telecommunication facilities including a 400-line imported electronic exchange.

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- Speedy processing of applications
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- Exemption from Export Control Order.

Incentive Package:

Alshall stock price indices

Kuwait trading volume dips

ALSHALL Index for Kuwaiti shareholding companies recorded on Wednesday an average of 37.98 points with a decrease of 0.32 points from last week. Alshall Index for Gulf shareholding companies reached 49.08 points with a slight increase of 0.39 points for the same period.

The trading volume for Kuwaiti shares reached 17.89 million shares at a daily average of 3.58 million shares with decrease of 43 per cent from the previous week daily average of 6.26 million shares.

Gulf traded shares reached 47.86 million at a daily average of 9.57 million shares with an increase of 97 per cent over last week daily average of 4.86 million shares. The value of Kuwaiti traded shares was KD6.81 million while it was KD0.9 million for the Gulf traded shares.

The market was mixed as it continued its weak performance for Kuwaiti shares while it had a positive performance for Gulf shares.

This resulted in increasing the gap between Kuwaiti and Gulf Indices to exceed 11 points in favour of Gulf shares. The concentration of trading for Kuwaiti shares was in the banking sector 46 per cent of total trading volume. The lead was for Kuwait National Bank at 37 per cent of this sector followed by the Gulf Bank at 14 per cent and Burgan Bank at 10 per cent.

The services sector came second at 23 per cent of total trading volume with Kuwait commercial markets having 46 per cent of this sector, Mobile Telephone Systems 28 per cent and Kuwait computer 16 per cent.

The investment sector was third at 9 per cent of total trading with Commercial Facilities having 39 per cent of the sector total, Kuwait International Investment Company 36 per cent and (IFA) 18 per cent.

For Gulf shares market the other companies market had the lead for the second consecutive week at 81 per cent of total trading of which Ras Al Khaimah White Cement had 37 per cent, Fujairah Cement 36 per cent and Sharjah Cement 13 per cent. Although about 50 per cent of Kuwaiti shareholding companies and about 80 per cent of the Gulf companies have not declared their dividends, there are some arguments about the weak market prices and the need for a price push. There have been attempts from time to time for raising the prices without a real attempt for mending the financial position of the companies which are facing financial difficulties.

Kuwait shareholding companies index

	Wednesday 24/02/88	Wednesday 17/02/88	Change points
Banking Sector			
Kuwait National Bank	91.31	95.00	-3.69
The Gulf Bank	29.35	28.51	0.84
The Commercial Bank	21.77	21.43	0.35
Al Ahli Bank	28.35	29.80	-1.44
Bank of Kuwait & M. East	26.75	26.31	0.44
Kuwait R. Estate Bank	27.78	27.78	—
Burgan Bank	24.78	24.58	0.20
Kuwait Finance House	64.88	65.55	-0.67
Sector Index	40.08	40.88	-0.81
Investment Sector			
Kuwait Investment Co.	34.85	34.85	—
Kuwait Int. Invest. Co.	27.49	27.15	0.34
Inv. Pearl Kuwait	84.13	84.13	—
IFA	80.88	82.35	-1.47
Base Period 31/12/1983.			

UK growth of 4.8pc best since '73 boom

LONDON, Feb 27, Last year saw the fastest growth in the economy since 1973, the year of the "Ford-Barker" boom. For the year as a whole the economy grew by 4.8 per cent compared with the previous year.

Preliminary figures for the final quarter show gross domestic product grew by 1 per cent, measured by output, confirming that so far there has been little slowing down in the economy despite the steep fall in stock market prices.

Forecast

The continuing buoyancy of the economy suggests the Treasury's forecast of 12.5 per cent growth for this year may be too pessimistic. Even if output remained unchanged at the level reached in the last three months,

of last year, the average of 1988 would be more than 2 per cent higher than in 1987.

The Treasury said yesterday that the economy was not overheating, and pointed out that according to the CBI, 87 per cent of firms still had sufficient capacity to meet demand. But the latest figures will confirm the wisdom of setting a cautious borrowing level in the budget.

Prices

The last time the economy grew as fast as this, taking one year with another, was in 1973 after the sharp stimulus delivered by the then Chancellor, Anthony Barber, in the 1972 Budget. In 1973, GDP on the output measure grew by 5.8 per cent and even faster on other measures,

producing an average growth of 7.3 per cent.

The public sector borrowing requirement in 1973/74 was £2.3 billion, equivalent to £18.1 billion, equivalent to 1987/88 prices, and representing 5.8 percent of GDP. This year the public sector accounts are expected to be in surplus by £2.3 billion, the first such surplus since Roy Jenkins balanced the books in 1969-70.

Inflation in 1973 was 9.2 per cent and on a rising path which in 1975 took it to a peak of 24.1 per cent. Last year inflation averaged 4.2 per cent, lower than in any previous year in the 1980s apart from 1986.

The balance of payments was in deficit last year, as in 1973. But in 1973 the deficit represented about 1.3 per cent of GDP, nearly

double last year's figure of about 0.7 per cent.

The one similarity between the economy today and in 1973 is the rate of growth in the money supply. This is about 22 per cent a year, compared with 27 per cent in the second half of 1973.

Growth

A few City commentators think the present high rate of growth in the economy will end in tears, as it did in the early 1970s.

The index of GDP rose in the final quarter of last year to 122, seasonally adjusted (1980 = 100). The increase of 1 per cent on the previous quarter compared with a rise of 2.1 per cent in the third quarter. Manufacturing contributed a rise of 1.5 per cent in the fourth quarter.

Prices

"I wanted to get here before the TV ads do and tell you right up front that Bob Dole is not going to raise your taxes (either)," Dole said in North Carolina, two days after the New Hampshire vote.

Senate Republican leader Robert Dole, fresh from a big win in Iowa party caucuses two weeks ago, refused to join his rivals and sign a New Hampshire "pledge" against higher taxes.

He was tarred as a tax-raiser in television advertisements run by Vice President George Bush, and finished a distant second to Bush in the New Hampshire primary.

Primary elections, part of the presidential selection process, are held in individual states so that voters can select delegates to that prevailed before Reagan took office.

"Their intentions were better than their arithmetic," said Harvard economist Lawrence Summers after examining the various contenders' budget

proposals.

One candidate in each party has deviated somewhat from the no-tax orthodoxy. Public returbation was swift.

Former Arizona Governor Bruce Babbitt, a Democratic longshot, literally stood up for higher taxes in a televised debate and dared his rivals to get to their feet as well.

He finished far back in the early voter tests in Iowa and New Hampshire and quit the race with a big lead.

Today's contenders generally propose cautious remedies contrasting on eliminating waste and reining in defence spending.

Higher

When the talk turns to tax increases, the Republicans just say "no" while Democrats reluctantly mention "last resort" tax boosts on big business and the wealthy.

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Generale battle at fever pitch as Italian firm doubles stake

BRUSSELS, Feb 27, (Reuter): A five-week-old battle for Belgium's biggest company has reached fever pitch with a decision by Italy's Carlo De Benedetti to double his offer for a controlling shareholding in Societe Generale de Belgique shares that they actually had.

As the stakes soared ever higher, stockbrokers said there were fears that the increasingly fierce fight could claim its first casualties among brokers who had sold more Societe Generale de Belgique shares than they actually had.

"The bonanza could turn into a nightmare," one broker said. Some brokerage houses in Brussels, London and Paris faced serious problems in delivering Societe Generale shares to clients by a Friday deadline, brokers said.

Surging

A frantic scramble for shares sent their price surging by 14.9 per cent on Thursday to a new record of 7,010 francs (\$197.50) on the Brussels bourse before officials suspended trading for lack of sellers.

Then, in the latest twist to a financial thriller that has gripped Belgium for over a month, Italian tycoon De Benedetti announced he was doubling his offer for Societe Generale shares to a staggering 8,000 francs (\$225.35) each.

Seven weeks ago the stock was at just 2,250 francs (\$63.60).

De Benedetti said that he, with allies, already controlled 45 per cent of the capital of the huge conglomerate and was tendering for a further seven per cent.

His rival alliance of French, Belgian and Luxembourg companies said on Wednesday it had 52 per cent and that De Benedetti had failed in his bid for effective control of 166-year-old Societe Generale.

De Benedetti and his opponents, led by French financial group Suez and Belgian insurer Groupe AG, dispute each other's claims, and some analysts share their doubts.

The Olivetti chief has already sweetened his offer once. His new offer could cost him a further \$440 million—in addition to the one billion that analysts estimate he and allies have already spent.

Financial sources closely involved with the battle say that in the end both sides will have to negotiate an agreement on running 166-year-old Societe Generale together.

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PASSPORT No. E-093451, Abdul-Jallil, father, Abdul Sattar, P.S. Chhagalnaiya, Dist-Fani, Bangladesh. Tele. 4845772. (AT2-41172-3)

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should be returned as soon as

possible.

MARKET PLACE

Cars

FIAT Cromo, 1987 model, metallic turquoise, 5 speed gears, full options, full insurance till July 88. Super condition. Tele. 3982742, after 4 pm. (AT2-41132-3)

MERCEDES 230E, 1982, manual, white, in excellent condition KD1400. Tele. 4840198. (AT1-41158-3)

MERCEDES 250, 1979, automatic, power windows, new tyres etc. Tested upto Aug '88, good runner, needs respray for next test. Re-advertised due to time waster. KD1,150, ono, cash. Tele. Mike, 5339308; anytime. (AT2-41155-3)

Audi 200 Turbo, 1984, full options, sunroof, 43,000 km, black, in very good condition KD2450. Tele. Shakhtour, 5716473, 1-3 pm after 6 pm. (AT2-41164-3)

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SPORTS**GOLF****Norman stretches lead to four shots**

CANBERRA, Feb 27. (Reuters): Greg Norman found the greens but lost his voice as he stretched his lead to four shots today in the Royal Canberra Open golf tournament.

A throat ailment which confined him to bed on his arrival in Australia two weeks ago has returned.

But the world number one managed to fire a three-under-par 69 for a three-round total of 201, ahead of compatriot Peter Senior on 205 after a 70.

West German Bernhard Langer is on 207, a shot clear of veteran Noel Ratcliffe of Australia who returned a 66.

After sinking a 15-foot birdie putt on the final hole, Norman strode off the Green and apologized for not being able to attend his press conference.

Senior struggled hard all day to make up ground on Norman but the closest he got was three shots away. "Every time I made a move I seemed to lack concentration and bogeyed the next hole," he said.

Canberra's altitude of 700 metres above sea level with the resultant thin air is playing havoc with players' club choice.

"The clubs are going so much further than they normally are. I've been hitting my seven iron 180 yards," Senior said.

Despite his throat infection, Norman will be hard to catch. "You can bet he won't shoot any worse than 70 tomorrow, so I'll have to shoot something pretty good," Senior said.

LA Open

• Pacific Palisades, Calif., Americans Ben Crenshaw and Jay Haas shared the lead yesterday after the second round of play in the \$750,000 Los Angeles Open with 36-hole totals of nine-under-par 133.

Crenshaw, who lost this tournament in a playoff to Taiwan's TC Chen last year, had the low round of the tournament so far with a brilliant seven-under-par 64 over the 7,029-yard course.

Crenshaw had nine birdies and two bogeys on his way to a total vaulted into contention for the \$135,000 first place prize.

Haas, one of the hottest players and leading money winner on the PGA tour this year with \$261,331, shared the first round lead after a 65 and he returned to shoot a three-under par 68.

Spain's Seve Ballesteros, making his second US start of the year, posted an even par 71, but failed to make the cut finishing at two-over par 144 for the first two days.

A single shot behind Crenshaw and Haas are compatriots Chip Beck, Ed Fiori, Dennis Hamm, Steve Lowery and newcomer Rick Pearson who entered the field at the last moment on Thursday morning when Mark O'Meara withdrew due to illness.

All five are at eight-under 134 with five more players three shots back at six-under par 136 including Aki Ohmachi of Japan and Steve Elkington of Australia. Both players had four-under par 67's.

Other players at six-under-par include Americans Mike Reid, Scott Verplank and Corey Pavin. Reid had the most spectacular shot of the day with a double eagle two on the par-five first hole. He sank a 209-yard four-wood shot for the rare score.

Malaysian Open

• In Kuala Lumpur, Britain's Beverly New won the Malaysian Open women's golf championships today by two strokes, scoring a final-round two-over par 74 for a total of 216.

Cornie Dibnah of Australia also shot 74 to finish second on 218. Three strokes behind in third was Briton Suzanne Strudwick who carded 72 in the final round.

Defending champion Ikuko Shiotani of Japan and Asian circuit leader Elizabeth Wilson of Australia shared 17th place with 229.

Kuala Lumpur is the third leg of the Asian circuit. Wilson won the recent Singapore and Indonesian opens.

Hawaiian Open

• In Oahu, Hawaii, American Joan Delf recorded a three-under-par 69 for a 140 total and a one-stroke lead after the second round of the \$300,000 Hawaiian Ladies Open golf tournament.

Delf, in her third year on the LPGA circuit, put two birdies and one bogey on the front nine in her round for the lead over Ayako Okamoto of Japan and American Joanne Carter.

Okamoto and Carter notched a 72 and 71 respectively.

"My strategy for today was to hit the fairways and the greens," said Delf. "I just tried to be patient."

SOVIETS WIN BIATHLON RELAY AND HOCKEY GOLD**Schneider edges Nilsson in women's slalom race**

MOUNT ALLAN, Alberta, Feb 27. (AP): Vreni Schneider of Switzerland, gold medalist in the giant slalom two days ago, edged Sweden's Camilla Nilsson by one-hundredth of a second yesterday in the first run of the Olympic women's slalom.

Schneider, who leads the World Cup slalom standings in what has been a wide-open race all season, used a flawless but rather passive run to take the slimmest of leads entering the second run.

Timed Schneider, 14th out of the starting gate, was timed in 48.81 seconds down the 63-gate course.

Nilsson, seeking the first Alpine medal here for Sweden's women, had a clocking of 48.82, followed by Yugoslavia's Mateja Svet in 49.21, Austria's Ida Ladstaetter in 49.71 and West Germany's Christa Kinschofhauser, silver medalist in the giant slalom, in 49.84.

Svet is trying for Yugoslavia's first Alpine medal of the Games.

Blanca Fernandez Ochoa of Spain was sixth in 49.89, and Switzerland's Brigitte Oerli, already a double silver medalist,

least.

Fernandez Ochoa, participating in her third Olympics, led the giant slalom after one run before falling in the second. Schneider fell on to win the gold.

"I'm surprised because I did not attack," said Schneider, 23. "When I saw on the board I had clocked the fastest time. I was astonished. I'm in a good position for the gold, but I have very strong slalom specialists just behind me."

Four skiers in the first seed of 15 did not finish their runs, including Austria's Anita Wachter, defending World Cup slalom champion Corinne Schmidhauser of Switzerland and American Tamara McKinney.

Ninth

Paoletta Magoni Sforza of Italy, the defending Olympic champion in slalom, finished ninth in 50.42. Magoni Sforza has finished no higher than eighth in any World Cup slalom this season.

"I didn't let my ski go," she said. "I think my title is gone, but I will fight in the second run to finish among the top five, at

least."

The first run was held under nearly ideal conditions, with bright sunshine and very little wind, but the course still claimed four of the 15 top-seeded skiers.

Austria's Anita Wachter, American Tamara McKinney and Swiss Corinne Schmidhauser missed gates, while France's Christelle Guignard fell.

Coasted

In Canmore, the Soviet Union took the lead on the second lap and coasted to victory in the 4 x 7.5-kilometre freestyle biathlon relay yesterday at the Winter Olympics.

It was the sixth consecutive Olympic relay victory for the Soviets, the longest unbeaten streak by any team in the Winter Games.

The Soviet quartet's winning time was 1 hour, 22 minutes and 30.0 seconds. All four Soviets shot clean at the shooting stations.

West Germany, led by 1984 Olympic 20k champ Peter Angerer, won the silver, trailing the Soviets by 1 minute and 7.4 seconds. Italy grabbed the bronze.

The way was cleared for their triumph when Czechoslovakia scored a surprise 5-2 win over medal-contenders Finland earlier.

Had Finland triumphed the title would have hinged on the outcome of their final match against the Russians tomorrow.

Canada snapped a scoreless streak of almost 200 minutes and then scored three times in a 1:34 span of the second period, staying alive in the Olympic hockey bronze medal race with a 8-1 victory over West Germany.

The Canadians had been outscored 11-0 in three medal-round games dating back to 1984 and didn't appear ready to score either.

West Germany, which had a surprising 4-1 record during divisional play but lost decisively to Finland in its medal-round opener, dominated the first period. The West Germans outshot Canada 17-7 and would

have had a few goals were it not for the outstanding goaltending of Andy Moog.

But with 26 seconds left in the period, Serge Roy's innocent-looking shot from the point was deflected by teammate Serge Boisvert past goalie Josef Schlickerrieder.

The East German former world cycling champion added the crown to the 500 silver she collected on Monday, shortly after watching compatriot Karin Kania lower her own world mark to 1:17.70. Undaunted, Rothenburger took to the ice and shaved another 0.05 of a second off the record.

Christina Rothenburger's 1,000 metres speed skating victory in a world record one minute 17.65 seconds surprised few.

Rothenburger could now become only the second athlete to win Summer and Winter golds if she wins the sprint cycling in Seoul in September.

Conditions at Mount Allan and Canmore — 100 km to the west of Calgary — were once again perfect while temperatures in the city rose to around 14 degrees centigrade and rivalled those in Miami.

The Soviets and East Germans continued to pile on the heat at the top of the medals table. The Russians lead with 11 golds to East Germany's eight. Finland are the best of the rest with four golds.

Medal standings

CALGARY, Feb 27 (AP): Medal standings after the events yesterday.

	G	S	B	Tot
Soviet Union	10	9	7	26
East Germany	8	7	4	21
Finland	4	0	2	5
Switzerland	3	5	4	12
Austria	3	4	2	9
Yugoslavia	3	0	1	4
West Germany	2	3	2	7
United States	2	2	5	9
Holland	1	2	2	5
Italy	1	0	2	3
France	1	0	1	2
Norway	0	3	2	5
Canada	0	1	3	4
Czechoslovakia	0	1	2	3
Japan	0	0	1	1

Switzerland's Vreni Schneider hits a gate during her first run. (Reuters wirephoto)



Czech player Peter Rosol (left) goes to the ice after Finnish goalie blocked him while attempting to shoot a goal in the second period of their medal round match on Friday. (Reuters wirephoto)

In Filipino Non-pro Bowling League**Manila team advances to final**

FAVOURITE Manila team (the Diplomats), who was ahead by one point margin against Peng (the Textiles) in the elimination round, drew 2-2 and advance to the final game after the last week of the first Filipino Non-pro Bowling League held on Thursday and Friday at 300 Club.

Despite the loss by the Diplomats in the 1st and 2nd games by 6 and 11 pins respectively against the Textiles, the Diplomats made an impressive and strong comeback and won the second game by incredible margin of 186 pins, 913-727 and wound up with an overall advantage of 169 pins (2,644-2,475) in their favour.

Rolled Diplomat Bob Peek was the outstanding bowler in the game who rolled 590 for Manila team, supported by Milo Coronado 527 and Lando Caburao 521.

The other Diplomats who showed their prowess are Tonette Arizabal, Pete Nierva and Manny Inserto.

On the other hand, consistent Arthur Reyes with his solid performance was the hero for Pasig Team who grossed 568 also shared the men's high game followed by Nestor Sogale, Mars Balisi, Lynne Reyes, Art Cabral and Julie Teves.

Soccer fans released on bail

BRUSSELS, Belgium, Feb 27, (AP): A Brussels appeal court yesterday released on bail 20 British soccer fans charged with manslaughter following the 1985 Heysel riots which killed 39 people.

The court ruled that despite the charges against the 20, the setting of bail was sufficient to assure their appearance at the trial, said a court official, who asked not to be identified. No date for the trial has been set.

A lower court had set bail for the fans of FC Liverpool, ranging from 50,000 francs (\$1,430) to 200,000 francs (\$5,715), earlier this month.

Including five suspects released on bail earlier, all 25 suspects extradited to Belgium and brought to Louvain prison 30 kilometres (18 miles) east of Brussels last September, have now been released to await trial.

They were arrested in Britain after video tapes and photographs indicated they had been involved in the Heysel riots, which happened prior to the May 29, 1985, European Champions' Cup final between Liverpool and Juventus Turin of Italy.

British supporters charged rival fans in an adjacent stand, causing panic and 39 people died, mostly Italians, when they were trampled to death during the retreat from the violence.



Mandalyong team (The Medicine Makers) one of the participants in the first Filipino Non-pro Bowling League are composed of (seating L-R) Rudy Zabala, captain, Baby Militante and Rene Militante, (standing L-R) Toto Abear vice-captain, George Abenoja and Nonoy Marama.

Meanwhile, perfectionist Willy Sabay of Caloocan City with his magnificent semi-hooked style set a new record for men's high series with superb 3-game marked of 645 pins and clobbered the old score of 615. He rolled 226 pins twice and out-pointed some of the aspirants for the men's honours except in the high game and romped away the high game (shared with Arthur Reyes) and average as well with 226 and 215 respectively.

Powerful On the other hand, consistent Arthur Reyes with his solid performance was the hero for Pasig Team who grossed 568 also shared the men's high game followed by Nestor Sogale, Mars Balisi, Lynne Reyes, Art Cabral and Julie Teves.

Saturday games — Las Pinas edged Makati-Gmbh 3-1, Malabon blanked Quezon City 4-0, Pasay City razed Marikina 4-0, Caloocan City won by default against Navotas 4-0 and Mandalyong by.

Individual standings Men's high series: 1) Willy Sabay, Caloocan City 226 (twice), Arthur Reyes, Pasig 226. 2) Bob Peek, Manila 224.

Women's high game: 1) Eva Sabay, Caloocan City 192. 2) Mercy Laborce, Malabon 184.

Men's high series: 1) Willy Sabay, Caloocan City 645. 2) Roger Sabado, Caloocan City 600.

Women's high series: 1) Eva Sabay, Caloocan City 518. 2) Mercy Laborce, Malabon 495.

Men's high average: 1) Willy Sabay, Caloocan City 215. 2) Roger Sabado, Caloocan City 200.

Women's high average: 1) Eva Sabay, Caloocan City 173. 2) Mercy Laborce, Malabon 165.

200 Club members Willy Sabay, Caloocan City 226; Arthur Reyes, Pasig 226; Bob Peek, Manila 224; Roger Sabado, Caloocan City 222; Nelson Geronimo, Pasay City, 213; Boy de Los Santos, Las Pinas 211; Edwin Nepomuceno, Valenzuela, 202; Pete Nierva, Manila, 202; Mars Balisi, Pasig, 200.

Team standings Caloocan City (Steel Makers) 36, 43, 5, 30,047, 835. Pasay City (Contractors) 36, 42, 6, 29,033, 806. Manila (Dipl

